

VAPAC
SCHOOLS IN VENUES
COVID SAFE



KEY POINTS - ADVICE

The Victorian Education & Training Department advises Schools to follow the published 'return to school advice guidelines that state:

- “assemblies, excursions and non-essential large gatherings **MUST** be postponed”.
- The Department’s advice is that at this point in time there should not be school theatre shows, assemblies, graduations and so forth, either on school grounds or at external venues.
- The Department advises that Schools should not be taking large groups of mixed year levels and staff to combined events at their own or external venues.



KEY POINTS – SCHOOLS

The relaxing of physical distancing for students is because ‘distancing is not always practical in an education setting’. Extra curricula activities such as off-site graduation events are not likely to be classified as a necessary ‘education setting’.

- *“The venue density rule doesn’t need to be followed in schools where it is impracticable because schools are a controlled environment without access to the general public.*
- *The Education Department takes this to mean that in any other environment we should be following the venue density rules and camps/excursions at this time can’t take place so I’d be suggesting that schools can’t use hired facilities or have rehearsals or performances etc where groups of students are congregating.*
- *The Education guidelines also talk about not mixing up groups of kids in different age levels so that would be another reason why something like a rehearsal (or performances) with different classes or groups couldn’t happen in my view...”*



SCHOOL OPERATIONS GUIDE TERM 3 VICTORIA

- 7 (a): “The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has advised that a ‘venue density rule’ of no more than one person per four square metres is not appropriate or practical in classrooms or corridors, nor maintaining 1.5 metres between students during classroom activities.”
 - This is specific to the Classroom and School environment, and makes no mention of exemptions for students in any other setting.
 - Only DHHS / Government could make any such exemptions, not a School or the Department, as there is no jurisdiction outside of the school environment / facility.
- 7 (b): “Physical distancing is not required between school students on school sites.”
 - Again, only on school sites.
- 7 (e): “Schools are required to comply with the Safety Management Plan for COVID-19”



APPENDIX I: HEALTH ADVICE FOR VICTORIAN SCHOOLS

- “Schools should consider a variety of strategies to support physical distancing and good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission within the practical limitations of a school environment.”
- “School assemblies, excursions, camps and other non-essential large gatherings must be postponed or adapted considering use of technology.”
- “Activities dependent on and involving parents (e.g. specialist programs, 1:1 reading) should be cancelled.”
 - (for example parent helpers with Performances; Adults at Graduations)

And:

The Education and Training Department refer School located performance and concert venues to the standard DHHS Entertainment and Culture regulations regards Entertainment and Venues, including regulations on physical distancing, density and spatial capacity. There is no difference or ‘exemption’ in place.



HIRER AND THIRD PARTY COVID SAFE PLANS

As per the VAPAC Guidelines, it is essential that Dance Schools and Schools read, agree to and sign-off on your Venue's COVID Safe Plan; and,

That the Dance School / School provides your Venue with their own COVID Safe Plan.

They have a duty of care to control and mitigate the risk of transmission of COVID-19. For example:

- How will they limit the contact of adult supervisors with large groups of students in the backstage environment?
- How will they manage distancing and COVID Safe Guidelines for adult dance groups (participants aged 19 years and older?)
- How will they limit the number of adult/ parent supervisors backstage?
- How will they manage props safely?
- How will they ensure the safety of your venue / tech / back of house staff regarding distancing?

Their Audience Capacity will have the same strict capacity, density and distancing limitations as currently applied by Government regulation

