Beach Messages

COVID Safe Summer Guide

The guide for NSW’s public space managers this summer

Support local communities with COVID safety around water:

1. Make sure the rules are known as early as possible and through as many means possible, to build awareness. Most beaches and pools have COVID Safety Plans to avoid spreading the virus; promote your website and social media so people can check in advance on closed areas, opening times, remaining capacity, restrictions on picnics and beach chairs, swim and go recommendations and based on daily local conditions.

2. Remind people to keep a towel length between them and other beachgoers. Ask people to avoid crowded swim areas and stay at least 1.5 metres away from people they don’t live with. Identify locations where crowding may occur and implement measures that minimise gathering.

3. Groups must be reminded to remain within the size permitted under the Public Health Orders (e.g. under 20 people), and ensure they can physically distance with people they are not living with. Work closely with the Local Area Command to try to ensure enforcement in the lead up to, and during, summer and also reach out to your local Public Health Unit for support.

4. Remind people the usual beach rules apply – obey the flags, listen to lifeguards – because they are also keeping you safe.

5. Ask visitors to consider their day. Densely-crowded beaches endanger physical distance, so promote alternative less crowded spots (see suggestions from Councils), Check Google Maps’ ‘Popular Times’ and real-time data. Avoid peak times; go earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon.

6. Promote discovering the local. While we love our beaches, remember travelling long distances to visit a beach may contribute to the spread of COVID-19. If using public transport, or in situations where physical distancing is difficult, people should consider wearing a mask.

7. Encourage people to bring their own beach gear. In addition to beach essentials, ask people to pack extra hand sanitizer, extra drinking water, and avoid sharing items such as food, equipment, toys, and supplies, with people they don’t live with.

8. Promote shared responsibility. Everyone has a role to play controlling the spread in public gatherings.

9. Remind people in public spaces that if they have recently returned from overseas or recognised areas of concern for community transmission or had close contact with a person with COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 14 days. See NSW Health’s COVID-19 website for more details.

10. Promote downloading the COVIDSafe app and encourage people to use COVID Safe businesses.

HELP US STAY COVID SAFE