

COVID Safe Summer Plan



An essential plan to safely enjoy
NSW's great public spaces this summer



**> HELP US STAY
COVID SAFE**



NSW has a wealth of beautiful public open spaces. We love our beaches, open spaces and parklands but it's going to be a different kind of summer and we'll have to work hard to keep these public spaces open, safe and welcoming places for the community.

Australians remain safe and healthy each summer by swimming between the flags, applying the *'Slip!, Slop!, Slap!, Seek!, Slide!'* principle, or checking the *Fires-Near-Me* app. In the coming months, we need to adapt our usual summer rituals to include COVID-Safe practices:

- Remembering to keep a towel length (1.5m) between you and other beachgoers
- Look out for the circles when enjoying our parklands and respect the space of others by maintaining 1.5m physical distance
- Avoiding crowded environments
- Limiting outdoor gatherings to 20 persons
- Remembering to wash your hands, and stay home if you're unwell
- Wearing a face mask when physical distancing can't be maintained
- Ensuring you have a COVID-Safe Plan for your business or community organisation
- Testing and self-isolating even if you have mild symptoms

Our COVID-Safe Summer Plan supports current Public Health Orders, and the information available on nsw.gov.au/covid-19.

More detailed guidance, case studies and recommendations are available on the Great Public Spaces section of the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website to support Councils and public space managers.

A message from the Premier and the Minister for Planning & Public Spaces

Parks and public spaces are integral to our way of life in NSW and they have been a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic, helping to maintain our health and wellbeing. We thank the people of NSW for using our beaches, parks and streets responsibly during this period.

As we move into the summer months and the great outdoors beckon, we must redouble our efforts to keep our community safe. It's important to observe the public health advice and maintain physical distancing while enjoying the open air and the unique public spaces that make NSW such a special place to live. As popular locations attract more people, take the opportunity to discover some of our less frequented parks and community places.

The COVID-Safe Summer Plan assists managers of beaches, parklands and public spaces, with ideas on how to provide a safe summer for all. The Plan builds on significant investment by the NSW Government, including our \$250 million program to provide economic and jobs stimulus in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver a legacy of safe, quality public space for all in our community to enjoy.

**The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian, MP
Premier of NSW**

**The Honourable Rob Stokes, MP
Minister for Planning & Public Spaces**



Bondi Beach, Waverley Council

Marking out safe distancing in our parklands and popular open spaces

Our State-owned parklands and public open spaces remain open to the public, unless advised otherwise. The health and safety of visitors and staff is vital and gardens and parklands teams are implementing measures to protect the community.

From September onwards, First Fleet Park in The Rocks, Tumbalong Park in Darling Harbour, Murray Gardens and the Crescent amphitheatre in Parramatta Park will be marked to aid physical distancing, with more locations in the Centennial Parklands, Royal Botanic Gardens and Sydney Olympic Park to come before summer.



Promoting a *Keep a towel length between you* campaign

This summer we are asking beachgoers in NSW to keep a towel length between themselves and other beachgoers. We're asking everyone to heed Public Health Orders to ensure the community remains safe. If a lifeguard, beach ambassador, volunteer surf life saver, park ranger or police officer asks community members to move on due to overcrowding, they should obey those instructions.

Many of our beaches and parks are managed by councils and they are leading the way with best practice. They're working with Surf Lifesaving clubs to designate swimming areas and issue regular broadcasts across patrolled beaches. Councils have moved swiftly with initiatives including deploying Beach Ambassadors and ranger patrols, installing signage and Variable Messaging Signs promoting awareness of Public Health Orders and providing support to local business.

You can do your bit too: the length of a beach towel is a good guide for the minimum safe physical distance of 1.5m you need to keep between you and others. The NSW Government will be working with councils to spread this simple beach message—Keep a towel length between you.

Parklands Food Fest, Western Sydney Parklands



Delivering a COVID-Safe summer program of events in our parklands and public spaces

NSW is an incredible destination, and major events play an important role in showcasing an area, supporting local economies and engaging the community. A range of events and initiatives will encourage safe use of public spaces over summer, including:

- A series of activities across our state significant places, parks and gardens in The Festival of Place, a 365 day celebration and series of programs and activations encouraging people to be outdoors, active, and re-discover, explore and celebrate our diverse public spaces.
- Establishing a Ministerial taskforce on major events, supported by a central portal where event organisers can go for advice on how to stage COVID-Safe events.
- Great Southern Nights will deliver 1,000 COVID-Safe gigs across live music venues across Greater Sydney and Regional NSW this November, including performances by artists including Jimmy Barnes, Birds of Tokyo and Missy Higgins.

George Street, The Rocks, Damien Carroll



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Supporting local businesses in high streets, plazas and precincts

We encourage councils and local businesses to take advantage of outdoor dining. In most cases, outdoor and footpath dining for cafes and restaurants doesn't require planning approvals if the relevant standards are met.

In response to COVID-19, the NSW Government has enabled mobile food trucks to operate on any land at any time, with landholder permission, meaning there are more places you can enjoy a meal outdoors. We are also investigating how to make it easier to run outdoor markets.

All businesses should register as COVID-Safe through [nsw.gov.au](https://www.nsw.gov.au), and make use of resources available such as a COVID-Safe check in via a QR code.

Resources are available for councils and local businesses who want to learn more about offering outdoor dining to patrons. The NSW Government is working to make this an even simpler more streamlined process so that we can support our local cafes and stay safe.

Street initiatives across NSW will allow restaurants, bars, cafes and other retailers to have customers spread out into the street, through the NSW Government's Streets as Shared Spaces program.

Since July, a temporary road closure of George Street in The Rocks has operated as a vibrant public space 24/7, showing how pilot projects can support local businesses to continue operating.

Pittwater, Palm Beach, Northern Beaches Council



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Working with councils

We urge the community to follow the advice of council rangers across NSW to ensure Public Health Orders are respected and the community remains safe. Encourage the community check in with your website to plan their trip in advance as there may be a range of restrictions in place, for example, pre-booking is needed at some of our most popular camping areas in our beautiful National Parks.

Councils, along with National Parks and Wildlife Service, manage a range of public spaces and they will be innovative and responsive in encouraging use of their beaches, parks and waterways.

The NSW Government is collaborating with councils on:

- Sharing of COVID-Safe Summer guidance for public spaces, highlighting best practice and useful resources, including ready-reckoners to share with the local community on using beaches safely
- Promotion of a 'New Local' campaign, which raises the profile of alternative local public spaces and encourages the community not to overcrowd popular public spaces

For more information on the COVID-Safe Summer Plan, visit:

[dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces](https://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/premiers-priorities/great-public-spaces)

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Visit www.nsw.gov.au and for 24-hour assistance on Public Health Orders, you can call Service NSW on **13 77 88**.

