



## Your COVID-19 related Questions Answered – 11 May 2020



I have had a number of questions asked via a recent Facebook post and thought I would post below the answers I have to date. There are others you may have so feel free to ask – there are still some I am awaiting clarification and specific details on. I will update as these answers are provided.

1. When will family members be able to travel to other parts of the State (where an overnight stay is required) to visit other family – e.g. parents, children;

**ANSWER:** This is likely to be able to occur in Stage 2 which commences **June 16** – This will be subject to further Public Health advice closer to this date.

- 1.1 Will it make any difference if they are staying with family when they visit?

**ANSWER:** No, people can stay with family or other accommodation.

2. When can people go to others homes for social visits rather than compassionate or care visits (acknowledging that a risk assessment of vulnerability of members of the household should be a priority)? How many at a time on what dates?

**ANSWER:** Whilst some restrictions have been lifted, Tasmanians are encouraged to minimise their movement as much as possible.

You are still required to stay at your primary residence.

**From May 18** (subject to further advice from Public Health) you can have a maximum of 5 visitors to your residence at any one time (Stage 1). This means a maximum of 5 visitors is in addition to the number of people who live in your household.

Reducing the amount for travel and close interaction with others continues to be a strong safeguard against the spread of COVID-19 in Tasmania.

When you leave home (in any gathering or setting) it is important to maintain: physical distancing, the 4 square metre rule, good hygiene and frequent cleaning.

Some people are at greater risk of more serious illness in connection with COVID-19, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, older people, people in aged care facilities, people with compromised immune systems, people with chronic conditions or people with disability.

Vulnerable people are encouraged to stay home to protect their health.

3. What is the expectation for UTAS reopening?

**ANSWER:** This is a matter for UTAS – students should contact UTAS for advice and support as needed.

4. When are Hydro Lakes and Dams to be opened for inland fishing?

**ANSWER:** With respect to Hydro Lakes and fishing – Many waters would be closed to fishing because the season has closed.

Those rainbow trout waters that would be open; and those waters that are open for fishing all year, will be subject to the land managers implementing the re-opening direction – some (like the rivers) are open.

The lists are here <https://www.ifs.tas.gov.au/the-rules/season-dates-and-times>

Specifically Hydro lakes and dams – I'm advised we will have more information likely from this week and Hydro will have information updated on their web page.

5. Re FIFO Tasmanian residents returning to Tasmania:

- a. Will they be able to quarantine at their own home?
- b. If quarantine at home is agreed what requirements would need to be met in their home (with other family members there) to enable this?
- c. Would other family members also need to self-isolate or quarantine during the 14 days?
- d. Could children still attend school if a parent is in quarantine?

**ANSWER:**

- a. Yes from May 18 if they are residents of Tasmania.
- b. Provided they can suitably self-isolate at home (that means have their own separate bedroom and ideally bathroom and maintain good personal hygiene and social distancing from other family members).
- c. If other members of the household can avoid close contact with the FIFO worker and is asymptomatic (that is have no symptoms of a virus, cough, fever, scratchy or sore throat, runny nose, headache, etc.) they can go out as per other social distancing

- and personal hygiene requirements. If they have or develop any symptoms they must book a test and self-isolate until they have the test and get a negative result.
- d. As above in c., if asymptomatic, and they practice good personal hygiene and social distancing at home from FIFO worker, children can attend school if they are currently attending schools as they open.

6. Is a refund or credit for Parks passes that couldn't be used during the shutdown being considered?

**ANSWER:** No Parks passes are not refundable. This is a State Emergency declaration. More information about access to Parks can be found here:  
<https://parks.tas.gov.au/be-involved/news-and-events/limited-access-to-parks-and-reserves>

7. With regard to Boot Camps – that is group based challenges over a period of time:
- when can these re-commence
  - will there be different requirements for number of participants, if so please describe
  - will conditions vary if held entirely inside, inside and outside and entirely outside, if so, please describe?

**ANSWER:** specific businesses should contact Business Tasmania Hotline directly and the staff there are ready to take those enquiries and provide specific restrictions advice to individual businesses.

General advice for Boot camps after 18 May is yes you can attend a boot camp if the following rules are observed:

- If your boot camp is outdoors, up to 10 people (excluding the trainer) may participate where physical distancing measures allow (that is, there is enough space for four square metres per patron).
- Indoor boot camps are not allowed.
- Bring your own equipment (e.g. a fitness mat) where possible or disinfect communal equipment between uses. Activities that involve shared equipment (e.g. a fit ball) are not permitted.
- Trainers must ensure that physical distancing, hand hygiene and frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection occurs.

8. Regarding TAFE:
- what does small invited groups for practical classes only mean?

**ANSWER:** Where it is required for completion of a unit or a course, TasTAFE will invite students to attend practical lessons to demonstrate skills and learning. This is being managed under strict health guidelines.

- what is the timeframe for recommencement of normal classes?

**ANSWER:** Return to full campus attendance is not expected until after July, but is fully dependant on public health advice.

9. Will the mobile phone ban in schools continue when students return to school?

**ANSWER:** There has been no change to the Government's policy on mobile phones in schools (ban from term 2).

10. When will Recreational Areas managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania reopen for access?

**ANSWER:**

As of Monday 11 May, Permanent Timber Production Zone land managed by Sustainable Timber Tasmania can be used for exercise activities by Tasmanian residents. Residents should only use public production forest within 30 kilometres of their place of residence.

The limited access opening for exercise purposes is intended to contribute to the Government's efforts to reduce non-essential travel during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Day use only is permitted for exercise activities, such as walking, running, cycling. All camping areas will remain closed at this stage. While accessing Permanent Timber Production Zone land, members of the public must maintain physical distancing rules and limit to groups as per Government guidelines.

Further restriction easing for use of public production forests will occur when it is safe and appropriate to do so, guided by the Director of Public Health.

The collection of firewood from designated areas of Permanent Timber Production Zone land in accordance with a valid firewood permit is still permitted provided that any other applicable COVID-19 requirements such as physical distancing and hygiene measures, are complied with.

Permanent Timber Production Zone land is closed for hunting and camping.

Sustainable Timber Tasmania will notify the public when current restrictions change.

