

Update: EQI Homestay Hosts and COVID-19

Education Queensland International (EQI) would like to thank all of the Homestay families across Queensland for ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our international students. By following the government's health directives you have also contributed to the health and safety of the greater community. Everyone has a part to play.

Out and about in Queensland – staying safe

Face masks and gloves

Wearing gloves can spread viruses when not used correctly. The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to regularly clean your hands and practice physical distancing.

You may be required to wear a face mask in Queensland if:

- your doctor has told you to or you are caring for someone who might have COVID-19
- state or local authorities request residents wear a mask in the event of an outbreak.

If you have been told to wear a face mask:

- Avoid touching the face mask while wearing it and wash your hands if you must touch it
- Do not reuse single-use masks
- Immediately replace a mask you have coughed or sneezed into it.
- Dispose of the mask in a sealable bag
- Always clean your hands immediately after removing your mask and putting it in the bin.

Public transport

Staying safe might mean a little forward thinking, planning and diligence. Stagger your travel times so you avoid traditional peak times and it is easier to physical distance from other commuters.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/practical-tips>

COVID-19 cleaning protocols – keeping your homestay safe

Many viruses remain active on surfaces after a person coughs or sneezes. Increasing the frequency of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces is important.

Clean all frequently touched surfaces regularly so that all surfaces are visibly clean and clean at least daily if anyone in the household is sick. The following frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned regularly:

- Door handles
- Tabletops
- Bedrails
- Light switches

Recommended supplies for Queensland homestay families

- Cleaning products for high-touch electronics
- Alcohol-based sanitizer hand soap
- Hard-surface disinfectant or concentrated (5%) liquid bleach and a separate container for dilution
- Thermometer
- supply of facemasks laundry soap

1. Detergent and warm water

This will break down grease and grime so that the surface can be wiped clean. Anything labelled as a detergent will work.

2. Disinfectants

Disinfectants should only be used once the surface is fully cleaned with detergent and warm water. Use disinfectants labelled as having antiviral activities or properties, this mean they can kill viruses.

Disinfectants that are suitable for use on hard surfaces (that is, surfaces where any spilt liquid pools, and does not soak in) include:

- alcohol in a concentration of at least 70%
- oxygen bleach, or
- chlorine bleach in a concentration of 1000 parts per million
- wipes and sprays that contain quaternary ammonium compounds.

These chemicals will be labelled as 'disinfectant' on the packaging and must be diluted or used following the instructions on the packaging to be effective.

Managing your 14 day quarantine in your Homestay before your student arrives.

You need to follow the Queensland public health guidelines (see the below link) for the 14 days before your student arrives. Everyone in the host home must be free of all COVID-19 symptoms.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19/isolation-for-coronavirus-covid-19>

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