



Public Health

Division of the Chief Health Officer

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

Use of Play Grounds and Sporting Fields during the Flood Recovery

People in flood affected communities should avoid unnecessary skin contact with mud from floods, including at play grounds and sporting fields to minimise health risks including wound infections, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose and throat infections. Specifically, people should exercise caution before using these facilities until the ground has been cleared of any debris that may have flowed on to the fields with the flood water. It is recommended that sporting fields and play grounds should be allowed to dry before use. Keeping the grass short will help the drying process.

Soft surfaces under play equipment, such as swings and slides in local parks, may also have been contaminated during flooding. It is recommended that these surfaces are hosed with clean water and are allowed to dry out before play equipment is used. If the play equipment itself has been immersed in flood waters it should also be hosed with clean water and allowed to dry before use.

As per usual practices, anyone using sporting fields or play grounds should wash hands thoroughly afterwards, especially prior to eating or drinking.

If an individual sustains a wound or abrasion, it should be thoroughly washed, prior to the application of a disinfectant and covering.

Please refer to the 'Stay safe and health during flood recovery' located at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/healthieryou/disaster/> for more information.

Anyone with questions about flood-related health issues are encouraged to call the 13HEALTH helpline (13 432 584) for advice.

Where chemical contamination from flood debris is suspected, contact your local government authority. Alternatively, contact your nearest Queensland Health Public Health unit for further advice:

Brisbane North	Tel: 3624 1111	Gold Coast	Tel: 5668 3700	Rockhampton	Tel: 4920 6989
Brisbane South	Tel: 3000 9148	Hervey Bay	Tel: 4120 6000	Sunshine Coast	Tel: 5409 6600
Bundaberg	Tel: 4150 2780	Logan	Tel: 3412 2989	Toowoomba	Tel: 4631 9888
Central West	Tel: 4920 6989	Mackay	Tel: 4885 6611	Townsville	Tel: 4753 9000
Cairns	Tel: 4226 5555	Moreton Bay	Tel: 3142 1800	West Moreton	Tel: 3413 1200
Charleville	Tel: 4656 8100	Mount Isa	Tel: 4744 9100		

For further information

A range of useful fact sheets on preparing for and recovering from disasters is available at:

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/healthieryou/disaster>