

Use of playgrounds and sporting fields during the flood recovery

People in flood-affected communities should avoid unnecessary skin contact with mud from floods, including at playgrounds and sporting fields, to minimise health risks. These health risks can include wound infections, dermatitis, conjunctivitis, and ear, nose and throat infections. People should exercise caution before using 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 playgrounds should be allowed to dry before use. Keeping the grass short will help the drying process. It can be expected that exposure to sunlight will dry the surface, quickly reducing any additional microbiological contamination that might have come from the flood water.

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 before play equipment is used. If the play equipment has been immersed in flood water, it also should be hosed with clean water and allowed to dry before use.

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

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

Anyone with questions about flood-related health issues is 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 Department of Health Public Health Unit for further advice:

Brisbane South Tel: 3000 9148
 Bundaberg Tel: 4303 7500
 Central West Tel: 4303 7500
 Cairns Tel: 4226 5555
 Charleville Tel: 4656 8100
 Gold Coast Tel: 5668 3700

Hervey Bay Tel: 4120 6000
 Mackay Tel: 4885 6611
 Metro North
 • Brisbane Office Tel: 3624 1111
 • Moreton Bay Tel: 3142 1800
 Mount Isa Tel: 4744 9100

Rockhampton Tel: 4920 6989
 Sunshine Coast Tel: 5409 6600
 Toowoomba Tel: 4753 9000
 West Moreton Tel: 3413 1200

