

COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Strategy for 2022 – 23 season

	Pre-departure Expeditioner Requirements	Pre-departure Risk reduction Measures	Pre-departure PCR Screening Regime	Pre-departure COVID Positive Case Management	Post-departure PCR Screening and Prevention	Post-departure COVID Positive Case Management
PURPOSE	Identify and reduce medical risk factors	Minimize exposure to COVID-19 in pre-departure	Identification of COVID-19 cases prior to departure	Isolation to prevent transmission Management depending on disease severity	Identification of COVID cases to prevent community transmission and impact on operations	Isolation to prevent transmission Management depending on disease severity
APPROACH	<p>Medical screening of AAP Expeditioners</p> <p>Up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations as per ATAGI</p> <p>Recommend annual seasonal Influenza vaccination</p>	<p>Promote “Enhanced prevention measures” In the 10 days prior to departure</p> <p>Includes: single occupancy rooms, encourage N95 mask use when in all shared indoor and outdoor spaces, maintain COVID-19 safe behaviours (including social distancing) and RAT/PCR testing if unwell.</p>	<p>Mandatory COVID-19 asymptomatic PCR Screening - day 10, 6 and 2 prior to departure</p>	<p>Isolation with RAT/PCR clearance testing from day 7 (negative testing required to leave isolation)</p> <p>Medical management depending on disease severity</p>	<p>Mandatory COVID-19 asymptomatic PCR Screening - day 2 and 5</p> <p>Symptomatic COVID/Flu PCR testing as required</p> <p>Promote COVID-19 safe behaviours including N95 mask use when unable to socially distance</p>	<p>Isolation with RAT/PCR clearance testing from day 7 (negative testing required to leave isolation)</p> <p>Medical treatment depending on disease severity</p> <p>Activation of AAP Outbreak Management Plan</p>

Further enhanced risk mitigation strategies may be employed throughout the pre-departure and deployment phases due to:

- Identification of critical roles or project groups – i.e. MYIC Traverse team
- Risk profile associated with the phase of the season
- Response to evolving COVID-19 variants or outbreaks

Note: This strategy supports the AAP specific activities and may differ from approaches taken by other agencies



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
Australian Antarctic Division



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