

Use of sporting fields and playgrounds during flood recovery

Fact sheet

People in flood-affected communities should avoid unnecessary skin contact with mud from floods 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.



Figure 1 A flooded playground slide

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' fact sheet.

Further information

- Department of Health
<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/disaster>
- Where chemical contamination from flood debris is suspected, contact your local government authority
- Call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) at any time
- Contact 13 QGOV (13 74 68) for your nearest public health unit.



Figure 2 A flooded soccer field