



COVID-19 update: Premier's Announcement

Dear services and providers,

This morning the [Premier made an announcement](#) to extend the Public Health Order containing directions on staying at home in the Greater Sydney region to midnight 16 July. This region includes Sydney, Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour local government areas.

The NSW Department of Education would like to acknowledge your commitment to the ongoing safety of the children, families and staff members at your service during these challenging times.

The department is committed to supporting you with up-to-date information as to how these announcements affect your service operations. The following information has been prepared to inform you about what this means for you and your service.

The department has also received enquiries regarding the requirement of QR codes in early childhood education and care services, and we have included additional information on their use for your reference.

Advice is [regularly updated on the website](#).

My ECE service is based in the Greater Sydney region, what does this mean for me? (For OSHC, refer to below advice)

- Education and care services are considered an essential service and may remain open, unless directed by NSW Health. Advice remains the same as per previous communication:

- ECE Educators do not have to wear masks when providing education and care to children. Educators may choose to wear masks, and masks are recommended when engaging with other adults, such as during pick-up and drop-off, and in administrative areas of the service.
- ECE services are required to display the Service NSW QR code from 12 July and families should be encouraged to check-in using the code when dropping off their children or picking them up from the service (see further info below about QR codes).
- Non-essential visitors should not attend ECE services – this means that incursions should not proceed at this time.
- Excursions should also not proceed at this time.
- Children and educators with any signs or symptoms of being unwell should stay home.
- Services should use outdoor settings during the day where practical, as open or well-ventilated spaces reduce the risk of transmission.
- Where possible, parents/carers should drop-off and pick-up at the service entrance/exit and not enter the indoor area of the service. Services on school sites should consider procedures to support pick up and drop off from the school gates, if possible. Where this is not possible or unsafe, families should pick up from the door of the service, following COVID safe guidelines.
- Families should maintain physical distancing at the entrance or exit of the service and are recommended to wear masks for additional safety.
- Assessment and Rating and non-essential regulatory visits by the Regulatory Authority are postponed at this time.
- If the service is closed, then the Regulatory Authority must be notified via NQA ITS.
- If a Community or Mobile preschool receives Start Strong funding and is closed for a period of time, then they should also notify the Department of Education's funding team.

My OSHC service is based in the Greater Sydney region, what does this mean for me?

- The extension of the Public Health Order means children attending school in the Greater Sydney region will be learning from home for the start of term three.

- Where parents are unable to provide education and care at home, children will be able to attend school.
- OSHC services both on and off school sites can continue to operate for before and after school care for any children that require it.
- In line with guidance issued to schools, for OSHC services on school sites in the Greater Sydney region, masks will now be required to be worn by educators while in indoor areas. Students from Year 7 and up are required to wear masks while indoors.
- OSHC services on school sites should liaise with the school principal to agree on appropriate drop-off and pick-up procedures. This is likely to include drop-off and pick-up at the school gate, where safe and appropriate to do so, or from the service entrance/exit if necessary
- Non-essential visitors are NOT permitted on school sites this means that incursions should not proceed at this time.
- Excursions should also not proceed at this time.
- Children and educators with any signs or symptoms of being unwell should stay home.
- Parents should maintain physical distancing on pick up and drop off, adhere to mask-wearing requirements and check in using the Service NSW QR code.
- Assessment and Rating and non-essential regulatory visits by the Regulatory Authority are postponed at this time.

My education and care service (including ECE and OSHC) is based outside of the Greater Sydney region, what does this mean for me?

- Education and care services are considered an essential service and may remain open, unless directed by NSW Health. Advice remains the same as per the previous communication:
 - All staff and students are expected to be at school.
 - OSHC services will remain operational for before and after school care.
 - Non-essential visitors are not permitted on school sites - all OSHC and ECE services should also not have non-essential visitors.
 - Educators do not have to wear a mask when providing education and care to children. Educators may choose to wear masks, and they are recommended whenever you are interacting with other adults.

- Educators should avoid travelling to geographical areas with higher levels of COVID restrictions in place, including the Greater Sydney region, if possible.
- Excursions should only occur inside your LGA and are strongly recommended to be outdoors and within walking distance.
- Singing and chanting should only occur in outdoor or well-ventilated areas.

Frequently asked questions about QR codes

The NSW Government announced that from Monday 12 July, use of the Service NSW QR code will be mandatory at all workplaces and retail businesses, including all early childhood education and care services. This is because the use of the Service NSW QR code has been found to be the most effective system in assisting NSW Health to protect the community through contact tracing.

Where should I display the Service NSW QR code?

Multiple QR code locations should be identified and used to ensure families, visitors and staff members are able to check-in safely. Locations should include the entrance/exit to the service premises, building or foyer entrances or in other higher traffic areas, particularly where families may be interacting with staff members.

How is a 'premise' defined? Do parents need to check in via the QR codes if they are in the playground or in the car park?

Families, visitors and staff members are required to check-in using the Service NSW QR code upon entering the service premises. Service premises in this regard encompasses the areas over which the service has use, and may include carparks and other parts of the service located outdoors.

I am a family day care educator; do I need to have a QR code when my premise is my place of residence?

The Service NSW QR code will need to be displayed during all operational hours in businesses, including in a Family Day Care service. This means that all visitors to your residence should be encouraged to check-in using the QR code on entry to ensure that contact tracing is possible should a risk arise in your service. Outside of the operating hours of your Family Day Care service, you are not required to display the QR code.

Does an OSHC service on a school site need its own QR code, or can families just use the school QR code?

OSHC services, including those on school sites, should have their own separate QR code as this makes it easier for NSW Health to do contact tracing based on the specific operating hours of the business.

Given that OSHCs on school sites will have their own QR code, do families need to check in to both the school QR code and the OSCH QR code?

If families are attending school during school hours, they should use the school QR code. If families are attending OSHC during OSHC business hours, they should use the OSHC QR code. Of course, if families are unsure and wish to use both they may do so. This is to ensure effective contact tracing, should a risk arise.

Let's work together to keep our community safe

- All services are encouraged to consider and follow their service's COVID Safe plan and infection control policies and procedures.
- The department encourages you to keep checking the health guidelines regarding venues of concern and follow the health advice relevant to your local area.
- If educators are unwell, they should be encouraged to get tested and should return a negative test before returning to your service.
- The department regularly updates the [COVID-19 Guidelines for ECEC services](#) based on advice from NSW Health.



[View previous updates](#)

Copyright © 2021 Early Childhood Education, All rights reserved.

Sent to all services and providers in NSW

Our mailing address is:

Early Childhood Education
L 8 10 Valentine Avenue
Parramatta, NSW 2150
Australia

Add us to your address book

To unsubscribe reply STOP

