



COVID-19 Update

Dear services and providers

The Department is committed to bringing you regular updates as information becomes available. This email includes additional information for services in response to your frequently asked questions and the NSW Government announcements today.

Campbelltown, Georges River and Parramatta LGAs added to increased restrictions for Greater Sydney

From midnight tonight, 28 July 2021, increased restrictions will be in place for Campbelltown, Georges River and Parramatta local government areas.

Early childhood education and care services, including Family Day Care residences and Outside School Hours Care services, may continue to operate at this time. In the following local government areas, parents are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home if they are able to do so, in order to limit movement in the community:

- Fairfield
- Canterbury/Bankstown
- Liverpool
- Cumberland
- Blacktown
- Campbelltown
- Georges River
- Parramatta

People from these eight areas must not leave their LGAs unless they are an authorised worker which includes Early Childhood Education and Care workers.

Update on surveillance testing requirements

Surveillance testing for educators who live in the Fairfield LGA will no longer be required as of 31 July 2021.

From Saturday 31 July, educators that live in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA will need to get tested every 3 days.

Surveillance testing every 7 days is still required for educators who live in Greater Sydney and regularly work on a site more than 50km outside this area.

For educators who work within 50km from Greater Sydney, while it is not in the public health order, it is recommended to get tested for COVID-19 every 7 days.

COVID-19 Vaccinations – updated advice

The latest advice from the Australian Government is that vaccination is now available for all Australians over the age of 18. The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is free, safe and very effective at preventing serious illness and loss of life from COVID-19.

You can book or change a vaccination appointment at a vaccination centre through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#). You can also check with your GP or local pharmacy to see if they are offering the vaccine.

You may have questions about a pre-existing medical condition and getting a COVID-19 vaccine. In this case, the Department of Health recommends you get your COVID-19 vaccine through your general practitioner (GP).

For more information, refer to:

- the [NSW Government COVID-19 vaccine](#) website
- the [Commonwealth COVID-19 vaccine](#) website.

For further enquiries, contact:

- the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline: 1800 020 080.

Border arrangements

Children and staff in border communities can continue to attend NSW education and care services at this time, except for the following reasons:

- They must remain at home if they are unwell, even with the mildest of symptoms. If they are unwell they should receive a negative COVID-19 test and be symptom-free before returning to your service.
- If they have been to a venue of concern they must comply with the self-isolation and testing requirements as directed by the relevant Health Department.

Travelling to and from ACT

Families and staff who live in the ACT who have recently visited Greater Sydney should visit the [ACT website](#) for further information.

Travelling to and from Victoria

The Victorian Premier announced that Wagga Wagga, Hay, Lockhart and Murrumbidgee local government areas (LGAs) will no longer be part of the border bubble from 11:59pm 27 July 2021.

These LGAs will be included under the Victorian Extreme Risk Zone in line with the rest of NSW. Residents will need to apply for an exemption to enter Victoria.

Families and staff who travel to and from Victoria within other areas of the existing border bubble will not need to do anything different. The NSW Government encourages these residents to keep updated with the Victorian Government rules and regulations.

Refer to the [Victorian Government website](#) for the latest information.

Travelling to and from Queensland

A New South Wales border zone came into effect from 1am Friday 23 July 2021. Staff and

families who are Queensland residents can continue to attend NSW services in the border zone for work and education.

Queensland residents coming to NSW will still need to complete the [NSW declaration for entry form from Queensland](#) every 72 hours. They will also need to complete a [declaration form for NSW to re-enter Queensland from NSW](#).

It is important to note that New South Wales border zone residents and Queensland residents cannot travel south outside the border zone in New South Wales and then enter Queensland until it has been 14 days since they were south of the border zone.

Families and staff who live in or around the NSW–Queensland border should seek further advice through the [NSW interstate travellers](#) and [Queensland Government COVID-19 website](#)

Information on border arrangements is regularly [updated on our website](#).

Mental health and wellbeing

Your mental health and wellbeing is important. Support and resources are available to support you through this time:

- [Department of Education wellbeing webinars](#)
- [Information for Educators and Staff](#)
- [Beyond Blue](#)
- [Headspace](#)
- [Black Dog Institute](#)

For more information

The Department regularly updates the [COVID-19 Guidelines for ECEC services](#) based on advice from NSW Health.

Educators are encouraged to regularly check the [NSW Health website](#) regarding up to date restrictions in NSW.

If you have any questions about your service operation you can contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113 or by emailing ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.



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