



COVID-19 update

Dear services and providers

The department has received a number of enquiries with regards to border restrictions. We have included a summary below for those services who may be impacted by these updated restrictions.

Please continue to [visit our website for the latest advice](#) and the [NSW Government COVID website](#).

This advice is current as of 15 August 2021 and is subject to change of stay-at-home rules or an update of the Public Health Order following advice from NSW Health.

Queensland

From 8pm Saturday 14 August 2021, Queensland is requiring any border zone residents to follow the [same rules as those required for stay at home areas](#) and only enter Queensland for a [permitted essential purpose](#).

If you are a New South Wales border zone resident, you can only enter Queensland for a permitted essential purpose. This includes to attend school or childcare – only for children of essential workers (as defined by the Queensland Government). Essential workers can transport their children to attend face to face schooling or to attend a childcare facility.

Staff who are Queensland residents are unable to attend work in NSW services. Early Childhood Educators are not considered essential workers under the Queensland Border

Restrictions Direction.

It is important to note that Queensland residents who go outside of the NSW border zone in NSW (or any other [COVID-19 hotspot](#)), will not be able to re-enter Queensland via road and will have to quarantine for 14 days in government arranged accommodation at your own expense when you come home by air.

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](#).

ACT

The ACT entered into a seven-day lockdown from 5.00pm, 12 August 2021. There are arrangements in place for [NSW/ACT border residents](#). NSW/ACT border residents are required to carry identification at all times to provide proof of residency.

Staff who live in the NSW/ACT border in one of the approved postcodes are able to attend work for an approved essential reason under the lockdown restrictions, which includes Early childhood education and care (eg childcare, family day care, early learning centres) and out of school hours care (eg vacation care, before and after school care). These services in the ACT are permitted to remain open for staff, vulnerable children and the children whose parents or carers cannot work from home.

If anyone in NSW has been to the ACT on or after 12.01am Thursday 5 August 2021, you must follow the [stay at home rules](#) for 14 days since you were last there and can only leave home with a reasonable excuse.

Educators and families who have visited the ACT since this time can continue to attend NSW services for work and education as a [reasonable excuse](#).

If you enter NSW on or after 5pm on Thursday 12 August 2021 and you have been in the ACT in the previous 14 days, you must complete the [NSW entry declaration form](#) within the 24 Hour period before you enter NSW or on entry. You are required to complete a

declaration form once every 72 hours. For more information, please visit the [NSW interstate travellers page](#).

Victoria

The border bubble remains in effect between NSW and Victoria. Staff and students living and working in the border bubble can continue to attend NSW services for work and education, with education being a permitted reason.

However from 6pm Friday 13 August 2021, staff and students who live in the cross border community aged 18 years and over must now obtain a Cross border community – Extreme Risk Permit to enter Victoria for [permitted reasons](#) which includes Early Childhood Education and Care.

Border community residents applying for a Cross border community – Extreme Risk Permit are reminded to check the application conditions and need to re-apply for a permit every 14 days.

Children and teenagers under 18 years of age are exempt from this requirement, but they can only travel across the border for permitted reasons.

The City of Wagga Wagga, Hay Shire Council, Lockhart Shire Council and Murrumbidgee Council are no longer included in the cross border bubble since 11.59pm 27 July 2021. Residents will need to apply for an exemption to enter Victoria.

Students and staff who live in or around the NSW/Victoria border should seek further advice through the NSW Government and Victorian Government COVID-19 websites.

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](#) for the latest

information on cases and locations; and the [NSW Government COVID-19 website](#) regarding up to date restrictions in NSW.

If you have any questions on this advice please contact the Information and Enquiries team on 1800 619 113 or by emailing ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.



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