



COVID-19 update

Dear services and providers

The NSW Government has today announced a statewide lockdown for a period of 7 days from 5pm, Saturday 14 August. This advice is of particular note to those areas that were previously not subject to lockdown.

Services should remain vigilant to the risk of COVID-19 transmission within the NSW community and ensure all procedures are in place to limit the risk with ECEC settings and maintain the health and wellbeing of staff and children. This includes accessing available vaccines, wearing masks, and ensuring parents and carers do not enter the premises when dropping off and picking up.

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

This advice is current as of 14 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.

Key changes

- Updates on stay-at-home orders to include all of NSW
- Reminder about masks
- Resources to support families

Restrictions for NSW

LGA / Suburbs	Date effective to	Requirements
<p>The following LGAs within Greater Sydney: Bayside Blacktown Burwood Campbelltown Canterbury/Bankstown Cumberland Fairfield Georges River Liverpool Parramatta Strathfield</p> <p>The following 12 specified suburbs within the Eastern part of Penrith LGA: Caddens Claremont Meadows Colyton Erskine Park Kemps Creek Kingswood Mt Vernon North St Marys Orchard Hills Oxley Park St Clair St Marys</p>	<p>Through to midnight on 28 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Masks are required in early childhood education and care settings while indoors and outdoors Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold) <p>Surveillance testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>For Canterbury Bankstown only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Saturday 31 July, educators that live in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA will need to get tested every 3 days if working outside of their LGA.
<p>Greater Sydney (LGAs other than those indicated above and including Sydney, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour LGAs)</p>	<p>Through to midnight on 28 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open Masks are required in early childhood education and care settings while indoors and outdoors Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold) <p>Surveillance testing:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
All other LGAs across New South Wales	New restrictions apply to all of regional NSW from 5pm today, Saturday 14 August 2021, until 12.01am Sunday 22 August 2021.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open • Masks are required in early childhood education and care settings while indoors and outdoors • Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)

A reminder about masks

Masks are required indoors and outdoors in Early Childhood Education and Care settings across NSW (as all areas are not subject to stay at home orders). This is to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.

It is not sufficient to carry a mask on your person - it should be worn on your face, covering your nose and mouth.

Limited exemptions for wearing masks for staff in ECE apply:

- where a child is deaf or hard of hearing; or
- the clear enunciation or visibility of the educator's mouth is essential.

Where an exemption for wearing a mask applies, physical distancing should be practiced where possible as another measure to limit COVID-19 transmission.

Masks should also be worn by staff when engaging with other adults, such as during pick-

up and drop-off, and in administrative areas of the service, including staff rooms.

All parents dropping off or picking up children should be asked to wear masks.

Please note, NSW Government (including NSW Health, NSW Police and NSW Department of Education) are the lead on COVID related information and have provided this advice [per the Public Health Order](#). Please take your advice from these authorities only. Any advice that differs from Government websites should not be followed.

Information from the Australian Government

The Australian Government has announced child care services in a [Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot](#) can now access additional allowable absences if the declaration extends for more than seven days.

Families will not have to use their 42 allowable absences during the lockdown.

Additional allowable absences will be available until the end of the declaration.

This means families will still have allowable absence days to use after the lockdown. It also encourages families to keep children enrolled, and ensures providers continue to receive the Child Care Subsidy.

[Read more here.](#)

Supporting vulnerable families

The Department of Communities and Justice [has compiled a range of links to useful resources](#), including general information about COVID-19, advice for delivering services and guides for keeping safe.

This website includes useful tips and fact sheets to help services support vulnerable children and families including:

- [Factsheet: Talking to children and families about COVID-19](#)
- [Factsheet: Support for parents and carers to respond to children's needs](#)
- [Factsheet: Keeping kids connected during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Factsheet: Responding to families or carers who advise that they have COVID-19](#)
- [Factsheet: Supporting children's learning during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Tip sheet: Family time during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Online mental health resources for professionals working with families](#) – An easy access A-Z toolkit on child, teenage and parent mental health and wellbeing.
- [COVID-19 family guide](#) – Information and tips to help parents and carers cope with COVID-19.

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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