



## COVID-19 update

Dear services and providers

The department is committed to bringing you regular updates as they become available. Below is updated advice on stay-at-home orders in additional local government areas (LGAs) as well as clarification on mask advice.

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

This advice is current as of 12 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.

## Restrictions by LGA or suburb

LGA / Suburbs	Date effective	Requirements
<b>The following LGAs within Greater Sydney:</b> Bayside Blacktown Burwood Campbelltown Canterbury/Bankstown Cumberland Fairfield Georges River Liverpool Parramatta Strathfield	Through to midnight on 28 August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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</li><li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings while indoors and outdoors</li><li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li></ul> Surveillance testing:

<p><b>The following 12 specified suburbs within the Eastern part of Penrith LGA:</b>  Caddens  Claremont Meadows  Colyton  Erskine Park  Kemps Creek  Kingswood  Mt Vernon  North St Marys  Orchard Hills  Oxley Park  St Clair  St Marys</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<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"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul> <p>Surveillance testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<p>Armidale and Guyra</p>	<p>Start date: 5pm, Sunday 8 August 2021</p> <p>End date: 12:01am, Sunday 15 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul>

Dubbo LGA	<p>Start date: 1pm, Wednesday 11 August 2021</p> <p>End date: 12:01am, Thursday 19 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul>
Newcastle, Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Port Stephens, Cessnock, Dungog, Singleton and Muswellbrook	<p>UPDATED</p> <p>Start date: 5pm, Thursday 5 August 2021</p> <p>End date: 12:01am, Friday 20 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul>
Northern Rivers: Lismore, Ballina, Byron Shire and Richmond Valley LGAs.	<p>Start date: 6pm, Monday 9 August 2021</p> <p>End date: 12:01am, Tuesday 17 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul>
Tamworth LGAs	<p>Start date: 5pm, Monday 9 August 2021</p> <p>End date: 12:01am, Tuesday 17 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul>
Western NSW: Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Narromine, Walgett and Warren LGAs	<p>Start date: 7pm, Wednesday 11 August 2021</p> <p>End date: 12:01am, Thursday 19 August 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education and Care services may remain open for those who need it</li> <li>• Masks required in early childhood education and care settings</li> <li>• Limit visitors to services (non-essential regulatory visits on hold)</li> </ul>

## Clarification on Masks

Masks are required indoors in Early Childhood Education and Care settings across NSW. This is to help prevent transmission of COVID-19.

Masks are also required in outdoor Early Childhood Education and Care settings in Greater Sydney or an [affected area in regional NSW](#).

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.](#)

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## 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](mailto:ececd@det.nsw.edu.au).**



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