



## COVID-19 update

### What you need to know:

- NSW Government has updated advice on attendance in ECEC.
- ECEC workers who live or work in the 12 LGAs of concern must have their first vaccination dose by 30 August to return to work.
- ECEC workers who live in the 12 LGAs of concern and work outside of the LGA will also be required to have a vaccination by 30 August and will be required to carry a permit from Service NSW declaring they are an authorised worker from 28 August.
- ECEC workers who enter into one of the 12 LGAs of concern to work must also carry a worker permit issued by Service NSW from 28 August.
- Stay-at-home orders have been extended in Greater Sydney until at least the end of September.
- More detailed information will be shared over the coming days to answer your questions and explain the permit system.

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## Information for Services

Dear services and providers

NSW Government has issued advice for families, the community and the Early Childhood Education and Care sector regarding attendance and mandatory vaccination.

**There have been a significant number of cases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services, so parents and carers across the state are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home, unless they need to be at those services.**

**ECEC workers who live or work in the [LGAs of concern](#) must have their first vaccination dose by 30 August.**

Advice from NSW Health has been issued: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/ECEC-advice.aspx>.

This updated advice applies to all early childhood education and care services, including Out of School Hours Care (before and after school care and vacation care) and family day care residences and venues.

In this email, we have also included recommended communications for families to ensure that they are aware of this updated advice.

The Department of Education's primary concern is the health, safety and wellbeing of children and educators in the ECE and OSHC sectors. We are currently compiling a list of frequently asked questions and will issue advice shortly on the rescheduled COVID information session. Please continue to [visit our website for the latest advice](#).

The Department will continue to work closely with our Health colleagues to bring you up to date information and will aim to provide responses to your frequently asked questions as soon as possible. This advice is current as of 20 August 2021 and is subject to change of stay-at-home orders or further updates of the Public Health Order.

## **Vaccination information**

- COVID-19 vaccinations are safe and very good at protecting from COVID-19.
- Vaccination also lowers the chance of spreading COVID-19 to others if you become infected.
- Vaccination is free and available at NSW Health vaccination clinics, GPs and some community pharmacies. Some clinics offer vaccination without needing to book an appointment. Visit [COVID-19 vaccination in NSW](#) for more information.
- [Prioritised vaccination appointments](#) for the Pfizer vaccine are available for ECE workers aged 16-39 years across the 12 LGAs of concern. Staff over 40 years old

are still eligible for priority vaccinations under the [Authorised workers priority appointment](#).

## Communication for families

Dear Families

On 20 August, NSW Government issued advice for families, the community and the ECEC sector as follows:

**There have been a significant number of cases in Early Childhood Education and Care Services, so parents and carers across the state are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home, unless they need to be at those services.**

Please refer to the health advice at: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Pages/ECEC-advice.aspx>.

Please contact us to discuss your needs for care so that we can staff our service appropriately.

If you cannot care for your child at home, we also remind you not to bring your child if they have any symptom of being unwell. We also ask that you do not bring your child if you or anyone else in your household has any symptom of being unwell.

The health, safety and wellbeing of children, families, staff and community is most important at this time. We will continue to provide updated information as we receive it from NSW Health.

The Department has prepared a range of helpful resources for families to support continued [learning from home](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please stay safe and well.

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



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