



COVID-19 Update

What you need to know:

- The department has recommenced some face-to-face visits, conducted by fully vaccinated authorised officers.
- From 8 November only fully vaccinated persons can undertake work in ECE services, this includes parents volunteering in services.
- You can now add your COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate to your Service NSW account.
- Updated advice is available on recovery from COVID-19 and returning to work.
- All services including Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) services must comply with mandatory QR code rules.

Dear services and providers

We hope you have enjoyed having more children back in care this week and the increased freedoms available to all of us now that our community is 80% vaccinated. We are pleased to be recommencing visits in services and include more information in this email on what you might expect.

We have received a number of questions from services over the last few weeks

about vaccination requirements for parents. There is currently no requirement in the public health order that parents be vaccinated in order to send their children to care, drop them off or pick them up.

All people working on a site are required under the Public Health Order to have received two doses of vaccination by 8 Nov. This includes anyone who volunteers and therefore parents who volunteer.

More information on parents attending services and how to organise drop-off and pick-up safely can be [found on our website](#).

Face-to-face service visits to recommence

During the stay-at-home orders across NSW, the Department of Education limited face-to-face visits to minimise health risks in services. With the increasing rates of vaccinations across the state, and the lifting of stay-at-home orders, the department has recommenced some face-to-face visits and these will continue to be scheduled over the coming weeks and months.

All staff from the Department of Education who visit your service will be fully vaccinated and may ask you to confirm prior to the visit the vaccination status of your staff for their own health and safety.

Communicating with parents about staff vaccinations

A reminder that vaccination is required for all early childhood education and care educators and staff by 8 November under the current Public Health Order.

Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination will be required by this date.

Services are required to check the vaccination status of staff. There is no requirement that services communicate with parents about staff vaccination status, but some services have told us they would like to and it is good practice to advise families about health and safety matters in your service.

A template letter is available below for you to distribute to parents or to include in your newsletter. Sections in bold are designed to be deleted where they do not apply to your service.

Dear parents,

We hope you and your family have been safe and well over the last few months.

We're very excited that all children are now able to return to early childhood education and care settings - it's been wonderful to have so many children back with us this week.

We know many parents are passionate about the issue of vaccination. Like you, we think vaccination is a crucial way we can keep our community safe.

*We're proud to let you know that **all of our educators have now received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination/all of our educators have now received one dose of the COVID-19 vaccination and have a second dose booked prior to 8 November.***

We encourage all eligible adults and children aged 12 years or over in your household to consider getting vaccinated as this is the best way of keeping our community and our youngest children safe. You might be interested to learn more about the vaccination on the [National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance website](#).

We look forward to welcoming even more families back to our service in the coming weeks.

Proving your vaccination status

Employers in ECE are required to check their employees' vaccination status.

Services Australia has created a [COVID-19 online resource centre](#), which offers posters, social media materials, videos, audio, factsheets and more about how people can get proof of their COVID-19 vaccinations. The resource centre also has translated materials if your educators or families require information in their language. [Tailored guidance is also available](#) on how to set up your online accounts and access and store vaccination proof.

You can also add your COVID-19 digital certificate to the Service NSW app to prove your vaccination status as an employee or when you check in to a venue. Instructions on how to add your certificate and other ways you can provide proof of vaccination are available on the [Service NSW website](#).

Updated advice on recovery from COVID-19 available

Advice is available from NSW Health on recovery from COVID-19 and when infected community members can leave isolation and return to work.

If you have had COVID-19 and recovered, you will receive a text message (SMS) or email which confirms the end of your isolation period. This is called your medical clearance notice. This means that you are no longer infectious and cannot pass COVID-19 on to other people.

Please keep the SMS or email of your medical clearance notice with you when you leave home in case you need it to show your employer or NSW Police.

More advice and additional FAQs are available on the [NSW Health website](#).

QR codes in all ECE services including OSHC

All ECE services, including Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) services, must comply with the NSW Government mandate for all visitors (including staff) to check-in using the Service NSW QR code each time they visit the service.

OSHC services, including those on school sites, should have their own separate QR code to the school as this makes it easier for NSW Health to do contact tracing based on the specific operating hours of the business. The Department of Education has been proactive in working with Principals to understand the requirements for OSHC services on school sites.

For more information, refer to [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC service - QR codes](#).

For more information

The best protection from COVID-19 is vaccination and the NSW Government requires all educators to be vaccinated in line with the Public Health Order. Our [website continues to be updated](#) with information and frequently asked questions about vaccination requirements.

We encourage staff to review our [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services webpage](#) regularly, and to access our [sector updates](#).

Educators are encouraged to regularly check the [NSW Health website](#) and [NSW](#)

[Government 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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Sent to all services and providers in NSW

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