



## COVID-19 Update

### What you need to know:

- Vaccination mandatory for all employees, contractors, volunteers and visitors working on ECE sites as at today, 8 November 2021
- Verifying a contraindication form
- Orientation allowed on ECE sites with COVID-safe measures in place
- Roadshows continue with more sessions announced

Dear services and providers

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all children in your services.

We acknowledge the challenges for the Early Childhood Education sector and appreciate your continued efforts to deliver quality education and care to the children of NSW.

Under the current [Public Health Order \(PHO\)](#), all educators and volunteers in ECE services are now required to have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. If you are not fully vaccinated as of today, you cannot continue to

work in an ECEC setting in accordance with the current public health order.

Please continue to follow COVID-safe practices in your service, including mask-wearing indoors (which remains a requirement for all staff in ECE services), physical distancing and all visitors checking in with the Service NSW QR codes.

## **Verifying a contraindication form**

We have received a number of enquiries in relation to checking and verifying contraindication forms. If a person can't get any of the approved COVID-19 vaccines for medical reasons, this will be recorded on their immunisation history statement and COVID-19 digital certificate.

Vaccinations may reasonably be temporarily deferred for individuals with some acute major medical conditions (e.g. undergoing major surgery or hospital admission for a serious illness). Typically, these are time-limited conditions (or the medical treatment for them is time limited) and therefore temporary exemptions are considered appropriate.

## **Medical exemptions**

You may only get an exemption from having a vaccine if there is a valid medical reason, which you can find on the [Services Australia website](#).

People who have had COVID-19 can be vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine. People should not be vaccinated until they have recovered from the acute illness. If a patient tests positive for COVID-19 between their first and second doses, the patient should not receive their second dose until they have recovered from the acute illness.

## Proof of exemption

If you're unable to be vaccinated for COVID-19 because of a medical contraindication (which means you can't have any of the COVID-19 vaccines), you will require proof of your exemption.

**First, your doctor will need to update your record on the Australian Immunisation Register to say you have a medical contraindication. You can then get your COVID-19 digital certificate and add it to the Service NSW app.**

Other ways to show proof of your medical contraindication are:

- A downloaded or printed copy of your COVID-19 digital certificate or immunisation history statement.
- A NSW Health medical contraindication form completed by a registered medical practitioner.
- A medical clearance notice issued by NSW Health.

Employers can [check the medical practitioners registration here](#). If you think the proof you're being shown is fraudulent, you can [report suspected fraud](#) online or call the [Fraud Tip-off line](#).

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## Orientation for new children in ECE

A positive start at your service is important and relies on everyone working together to make it happen – family, community and the early childhood education service.

With stay home orders lifted, services are encouraged to plan orientation visits

ensuring consideration of the current COVID situation within your local community.

For orientation visits to occur within your service, the following requirements should be in place:

- Ensure you have adequate contact details for any child or family member in attendance at the visit.
- Undertake a risk assessment for any child with additional learning, health care or behavioural needs in discussion with their parent or carer.
- Confirm that all attendees including parents and carers, children and staff are well and free of any COVID-19 symptoms.

You can read more information about orientation in our [COVID guidelines document](#).

## **Virtual roadshows**

Thank you to everyone who has attended one of our Virtual Roadshows over the past few weeks. It's great to see the high number of people across the ECE sector who have attended and we hope you have left the sessions with helpful information.

We've added some new sessions to the November and December virtual roadshow line up.

[Register now](#) for the remaining sessions on:

- Allergy and Anaphylaxis – Best Practice Guidelines and use of the Anapen
- Reportable Conduct (Office of the Children's Guardian)
- Sleep and rest best practice in ECE
- How to write better grant applications (BASC)
- BASC: tips to notify of changes

## For more information

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



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Sent to all services and providers in NSW

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