



COVID-19 Update

What you need to know:

- Information about Authorised Officers visiting your service
- International arrivals to NSW and the requirements for testing
- SafeWork to hold community of practice event on workplace health and safety for the ECE sector
- Disease notification requirements for services

Dear services and providers

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all children in your services. This email includes a range of information to help support your service to continue to respond to the challenges of COVID-19.

If you have additional questions specific to your service, you can call our Information and Enquiries line on 1800 619 113 or by emailing

ececd@det.nsw.edu.au.

Information about Authorised Officers visiting your service

- Face to face visits to services have resumed.
- The current Public Health Order also covers our Authorised Officers. Any person visiting your service from the Department of Education will be fully vaccinated.
- Officers will not visit your service if they are unwell or have been deemed a close contact of a positive case.
- Officers will comply with COVID safe practices when visiting your service including the wearing of face masks.
- Section 197 of the National Law provides powers of entry for Authorised Officers, services cannot require Officers to undertake COVID testing prior to their visit.

International travel to NSW – COVID-19 testing requirements

With international travel now resuming, some ECE services have received questions from parents and families around the requirements of returning travelers and their children attending ECE upon return to NSW.

Please visit the NSW Health website for the [Guidelines for recent fully vaccinated arrivals](#).

Please note, there are different rules for children under 12 years of age who are not fully vaccinated when returning from international travel.

Please visit the NSW Health website for the [International arrivals to and from NSW page](#) for information on rules and restrictions.

Health Care and Social Assistance Community of Practice

SafeWork NSW is hosting an online event focused on workplace health and safety for the Early Childhood Education sector.

The **Health Care and Social Assistance Community of Practice** event will be held on Thursday 18 November from 10am – 12pm.

The event provides an opportunity for Early Childhood Education and Care services and providers to explore new and innovative resources and information, learn from best practice case studies, share ideas and discuss key issues and challenges.

SafeWork NSW released the [Health Care and Social Assistance Work Health and Safety Sector Plan](#) in 2019 which included the Early Childhood Education sector.

The program details can be found on [Eventbrite](#).

Disease notification

Early childhood education and care services should notify their local [public health unit](#) (PHU) as soon as possible after they are made aware that a child enrolled at their service:

- has one of the following vaccine preventable diseases, or
- is reasonably suspected of having come into contact with a person who has one of these vaccine preventable diseases and the enrolled child has no evidence of immunisation lodged to show that the child is immunised against, or acquired immunity by infection from, that disease.

The diseases are:

- Diphtheria
- Mumps
- Poliomyelitis
- Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib)
- Meningococcal disease
- Rubella ("German measles")
- Measles
- Pertussis ("whooping cough")
- Tetanus

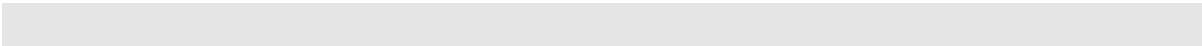
Early childhood education and care services are also encouraged to seek advice from their local PHU when they suspect an infectious disease outbreak is affecting their centre, such as outbreaks of a gastrointestinal or respiratory illness.

How to notify

Early childhood education and care services should provide information specified in the [Vaccine preventable disease notification form](#) and are also encouraged to notify the PHU by phone on 1300 066 055.

Early childhood education and care services who suspect an infectious disease outbreak is affecting their centre should contact their local PHU by phone on 1300 066 055.

Please visit the NSW Health website for more information for [Early childhood education and care services](#) (see p.13) and for the [Gastroenteritis Information Pack for Childcare Centres](#).



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.



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Sent to all services and providers in NSW

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