



20 February 2022

COVID-19 Update

What you need to know:

- All early childhood education and care services will receive an additional supply of Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) kits to allow staff to continue testing.
- Beyond this supply, RATs and PCR tests are now widely available and accessible in the community.
- All positive COVID test results must be reported to [Service NSW](#) and to the service.
- The Department is working with NSW Health to determine if changes will apply in line with community settings regarding the use of masks. At the current time, masks are still required indoors in ECE.
- QR codes are not required in ECE services.

Dear services and providers

All Early Childhood Education and Care services will receive an additional delivery of rapid antigen tests to support staff to continue testing.

The Department continues to work closely with NSW Health to determine

considerations for ECE to support services to remain operational for children and families. The recent changes in our community settings reflect the current stage of the pandemic and our high rates of vaccination.

All ECE staff, including volunteers and students undertaking practicum and teacher training, under the current [Public Health Order](#) must have received 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. A booster vaccination can be given three or more months after your first 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

ECE services should continue to practice COVID-smart measures including maximising fresh air flow through natural ventilation, hand hygiene practices and regular cleaning.

Provision of RAT kits

As part of the NSW Government's focus on keeping ECE services operational and to allow staff to remain at work, another distribution of free rapid antigen tests (RATs) will be supplied to ECE services.

The additional supply will allow for use as required by ECE staff. These may be used, for example, should a staff member be symptomatic or if there are cases arising at the service.

Beyond this supply, RATs and PCR tests are now widely available and accessible in the community.

Find more information and frequently asked questions on RAT kits on the [Managing COVID cases webpage](#).

Service NSW app: positive RAT notifications

It is a NSW Government requirement that you must [register](#) a positive rapid antigen test result as soon as possible after you get your result within the Service NSW App.

When registering this result please select 'early childhood education' when notifying in the drop-down box and indicate your service name.

Notification of a positive case: reminder

The following information is required when notifying of a positive case at your centre:

1. Case Type – Child/ Parent or Staff. No personal details required.
2. Date the positive case was infectious and attended the service (48 hours prior to positive COVID test or from the onset of symptoms, whichever is earlier).
3. A general statement to demonstrate that you have determined who was in attendance with the case during their infectious period.
4. A general statement to confirm you have sent all those in attendance (parents, staff, visitors) the [risk of COVID-19 letter \(DOCX, 40KB\)](#) and [factsheet \(PDF, 108KB\)](#) from NSW Health.

Find more information on the [Managing COVID cases webpage](#), including for other cases detected following the initial exposure.

Notification for out-of-scope services

Out-of-scope services, in line with the regulations and requirements, are required to notify via email when:

- There is a positive case in your service
- When your service has to close or reduce numbers
- When your service re-opens

Out-of-scope services must submit a notification via email

ECECD@det.nsw.edu.au as these services do not currently have access to the [NQAITS Portal](#) to notify.

Out-of-scope services are required to complete the same steps outlined above when notifying of a positive case.

For more information

ECE staff 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.

If you have specific questions about COVID-19, you can also email ECEC.COVIDCASE@det.nsw.edu.au



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Sent to all services and providers in NSW

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