

COVID-19 Update

What you need to know:

- From 6pm Friday 22 April self-isolation requirements will be updated for close or household contacts.
- If a child or staff member has tested positive, they must isolate for 7 days and can leave isolation after 7 days only if they are symptom-free, and do not need to test before returning to the service.
- All positive COVID test results must be reported to [Service NSW](#) and to your service.
- The Department of Education is working closely with NSW Health to finalise the details of these changes and how they will affect ECE settings.

Dear services and providers

The NSW Government today announced close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case will not be required to isolate, provided they comply with NSW Health guidelines.

There are no changes for positive cases: the seven-day isolation requirement remains in place for anyone who has recorded a positive RAT or PCR result. They must follow NSW Health's [Testing positive to COVID-19 and managing COVID-19 safely at home](#) guidelines

From 6pm on Friday 22 April, close contacts (defined as a household contact or an individual deemed by NSW Health to be a close contact) will not have to isolate, as long as they have no symptoms and comply with the following guidelines:

- Do not visit aged care, hospitals, disability, and correctional facilities unless a special exemption applies;
- Wear a face mask in indoor settings outside the home;
- Undertake daily RAT tests before coming into close contact with people outside their household, where practicable;
- Avoid contact with elderly and immunocompromised persons where possible;
- Work from home where practical;
- Notify their employer/educational facility that they are a close contact, and that they are not required to isolate as long as they comply with the above.
- Close contacts will need to comply with the above guidelines for 7 days from the time a person in their household tested positive for COVID-19.

The Premier also announced the [Public Health Order](#) mandating vaccinations for Education and Care Workers will not be extended after it expires in May and we will move to a risk-based assessment approach for workplaces.

Currently mandatory double vaccination requirements remain for ECEC staff and volunteers.

The Department of Education is working closely with NSW Health to finalise the details of these changes and how they will affect our ECE and school settings.

We will keep you informed and provide detailed guidance around this in the coming days.

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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