



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

Update

For early childhood education
and care providers and services



24 June 2022

COVID-19 support extended to June 2023

We're extending some existing COVID-19 measures for the early childhood education and care sector to 30 June 2023.

Absences

All families will get **52 allowable absences** for the 2022–23 financial year.

Families can access **additional absences**, in certain circumstances, if they've used their 52 days. This includes if a child is ill and provides you with a medical certificate.

From 1 March 2022, if a child or a member of their immediate household has COVID-19, the family may provide evidence of a positive COVID-19 test result from a government or health agency in place of a medical certificate.

We're also extending the exceptions to the **absences before and after care rule** for enrolments that start or end between 1 December 2021 and 30 June 2023.

See details about [absences and COVID-19](#).

Gap fees

Until 30 June 2023, you can waive the gap fee and continue to receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) if a child is unable to attend care for one of three reasons. These include:

- the child, or a member of their immediate household, must isolate with COVID-19
- the child is at a higher risk of severe disease from COVID-19
- the service, or a room at the service, is closed due to COVID-19.

See details about [gap fee waiving and COVID-19](#).

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