



COVID-19 Update

What you need to know:

- Restrictions for ECE services in some regional areas will change from midnight tonight
- [Frequently asked questions on State Government funding](#) are now available
- Further priority vaccination access options are being rolled out, including new appointments for Sydney and Wollongong
- [Claims scheme now available](#) to reimburse people following an adverse reaction to an approved COVID-19 vaccine
- NCIRS report on the [COVID-19 Delta variant in schools and early childhood education and care services](#) in NSW released
- Information on see-through masks to help staff communicate with students with hearing difficulties and through the use of facial expressions
- The new and improved [Mentally healthy workplaces website](#) is now online for use by NSW businesses

Dear services and providers

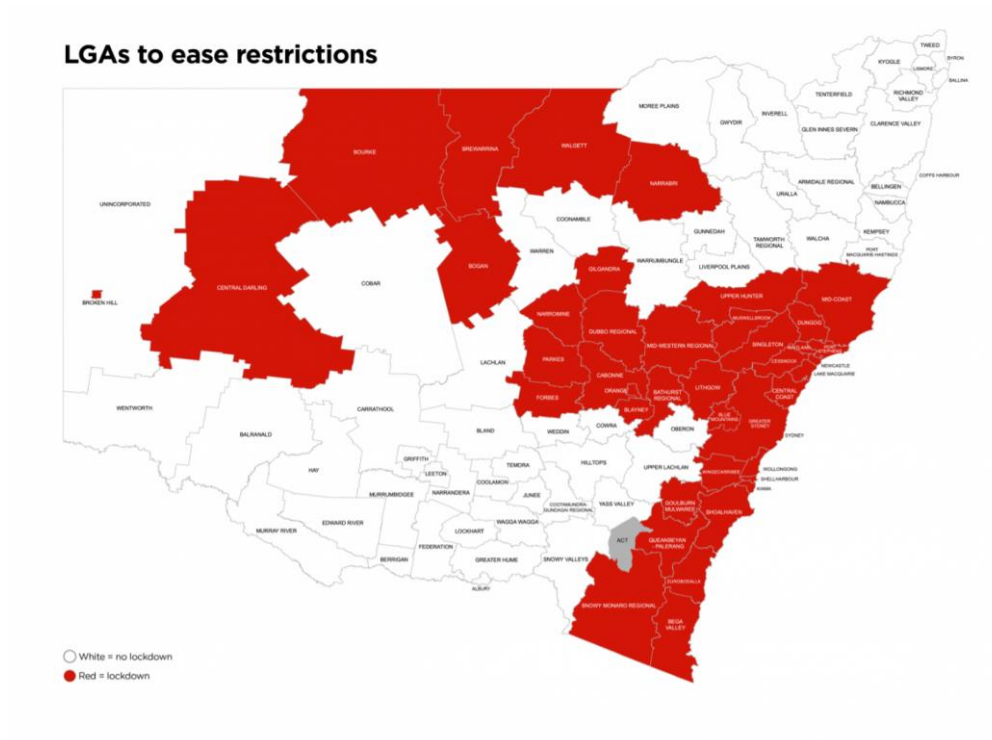
The Premier has announced updates for some regional areas which will commence as at midnight tonight. This will change the operational recommendations for services in these areas. This is outlined in this email, as well as some links for priority vaccination to help educators to meet the 8 November deadline to be double-dose vaccinated.

The department will continue to bring you regular updates as more information becomes available.

Changes for some regional areas as at midnight tonight

As announced today by the Premier, the stay-at-home orders in parts of regional NSW will be eased as planned from 12:01 am on Saturday 11 September.

The image below shows which LGAs will have restrictions eased.



Restrictions will continue to change, please refer to the [NSW Government website](https://www.nsw.gov.au) for the most up to date information and a list of impacted LGAs.

Children in LGAs where restrictions have eased can return to early childhood education and care services with the same rules in place as prior to the stay-at-home orders. In summary:

- Educators should wear masks in indoor and outdoor environments
- Services should continue to ensure strong hygiene practices and good ventilation in learning spaces
- Parents and carers should wear masks, check in using the Service NSW QR code and continue with COVID-safe practices with pick up and drop off
- Only essential visitors should be allowed at your services
- Excursions are not recommended at this time

- Travelling between LGAs with different levels of restrictions is allowed for the purposes of early childhood education and care

State Government funding FAQs now available

Services can now find answers to frequently asked questions around State Government funding and support available for early childhood education and care services on the Department's [early childhood education website](#).

Questions cover fees, business arrangements, Disability and Inclusion Programs and more.

Vaccination Update and Availability

A reminder that from 19 September all early childhood educators who live or work in the 12 LGAs of concern will be required to have received one dose of COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccination will be mandatory for all other early childhood education and care educators and staff by 8 November. Two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination will be required by this date.

Priority Appointments in Sydney

NSW Health have priority Pfizer vaccination appointments available this week in some areas of Sydney for anyone aged 16 to 59. You no longer need to live or work in an LGA of concern to access these appointments.

Please encourage eligible staff to make a booking at one of the sites below. If they are unable to make an appointment, NSW Health have advised people to just show up and staff will assist:

Wednesday, 8 September

Riverwood, Morris Iemma Indoor Sports Centre
150 Belmore Road North.

[Book an appointment at Riverwood](#)

Wednesday, 8 September – Thursday, 9 September

Marrickville, PCYC Marrickville
Steel Park, 531-565 Illawarra Rd.

[Book an appointment at Marrickville](#)

Wednesday, 8 September – Friday, 10 September

Glebe, Peter Forsythe Auditorium
Francis Street Corner, Franklyn Street.

[Book an appointment at Glebe](#)

Thursday, 9 September – Saturday, 11 September

Zetland, Green Square Library
255 Botany Road.

[Book an appointment at Zetland](#)

Friday, 10 September – Sunday, 12 September

Ashfield, Wests Leagues Ashfield
115 Liverpool Road.

[Book an appointment at Ashfield](#)

NSW Health has also opened priority bookings for all Greater Sydney education workers at [Qudos Bank Arena](#) starting from 6 September. A guide on how to access a booking at Qudos Arena is available on our [vaccination page](#).

Priority Appointments in Wollongong on Saturday

NSW Health are running a Super Saturday vaccination day for school staff in Wollongong this Saturday 11 September at the Mass Vaccination Centre to help support staff to obtain their vaccination before the deadline of 8 November.

Saturday, 11 September (dose 2 will be on 9 October)

8am – 4pm

Wollongong Mass Vaccination Centre, Old David Jones
Building, Crown St Mall, Wollongong (Entrance via Globe Lane)

You are required to [make a booking](#).

For those who are unable to attend on Saturday, there will be a walk-in clinic every Tuesday/Thursday and Saturday 12 - 4pm. Appointments are recommended, but not required, for the walk-in clinic.

Appointments in Regional NSW

In regional areas, COVID-19 vaccination is available through hubs, GPs, respiratory clinics, Aboriginal Medical Services and select pharmacies across regional NSW. We will continue to bring you regular updates when we become aware of increased hub availability.

Staff can also:

- Check the [Western NSW Local Health District website](#) to see if a walk in vaccination clinic is available in your area
- Book into an appointment-only [regional and rural vaccination clinic](#)

Staff are encouraged to keep checking the NSW [eligibility checker](#) for bookings in your area and take advantage of whatever booking is available to you.

COVID vaccination claims scheme

COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Australia are [safe and effective](#). There are strict requirements for testing and approving vaccines. Clinical trials must provide scientific evidence which demonstrates that the benefits of a vaccine greatly outweigh any risks.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration, or the TGA, has been rigorously assessing the potential COVID-19 vaccines for safety, quality and effectiveness.

Adverse reactions are extremely rare, however to address community concern, the Australian Government is developing a claims scheme to reimburse people who suffer a moderate to significant impact following an adverse reaction to an approved COVID-19 vaccine.

If you or a staff member has developed a rare adverse reaction, you can [register your interest in making a claim](#).

NCIRS releases new report

NCIRS released their report yesterday about the COVID-19 Delta variant in schools and early childhood education and care services in NSW, Australia from 16 June to 31 July 2021.

The report suggests that most children diagnosed with COVID-19 during the current outbreak, including those who caught the infection in educational settings, experienced mild or no symptoms, with only two per cent requiring hospitalisation.

This is despite the high transmissibility of the Delta variant resulting in a five-fold increase in the spread of COVID-19 in schools, early childhood education and care (ECEC) services and households, when compared to the 2020 experience with the original strain of the COVID-19 virus.

The [COVID-19 Delta variant in schools and early childhood education and care services in NSW, Australia report](#) provides the latest data from an ongoing study by NCIRS and the University of Sydney in collaboration with NSW Health and the NSW Department of Education that has been tracking COVID-19 transmission in educational settings since March 2020.

See-through masks may be useful in ECE

We know that many educators are eager to ensure students can see and respond to their facial expressions, and that for some children clear enunciation or visibility of the educator's mouth is essential.

We wanted to make educators aware that see-through masks are available for use in centers to help staff communicate with students with hearing difficulties and through the

use of facial expressions.

Adults are required to wear masks in indoor and outdoor settings in Early Childhood Education and Care settings across NSW.

Exemptions for wearing masks for staff apply:

- where a child is deaf or hard of hearing; or
- the clear enunciation or visibility of the educator's mouth is essential.

More information is available on the [COVID-19 guidelines for ECEC services webpage](#).

Mentally healthy workplaces website

Today is RUOK Day but we know that there is an ongoing mental health impact for the ECE sector and the broader community.

The new and improved [Mentally healthy workplaces website](#) aims to provide NSW businesses ongoing access to tools, resources and information to create sustainable mentally healthy workplaces. It offers:

- A one-stop shop for businesses to access information, resources, tools and support to create mentally healthy workplaces and look after their workers' wellbeing at work
- Customer-centred design to effectively guide customers through the journey from raising mental health awareness to taking action.
- Comprehensive data and analytics to contribute to whole-of-government data and reporting

For more information

The department regularly updates the [COVID-19 Guidelines for ECEC services](#) based on advice from NSW Health.

Educators are encouraged to regularly check the [NSW Health website](#) and [NSW Government website](#) regarding up-to-date restrictions in NSW. Here are some links that may be useful:

- [Regional and rural NSW restrictions](#)
- [COVID-19 tests for Sydney workers](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination for workers](#)

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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