

COVID-19 update

Dear services and providers

The Department is committed to continuing to provide updated information and assistance as we work together to respond to the health advice particularly across the Greater Sydney region.

Please continue to [visit our website for updates](#).

Further to advice issued yesterday, the following information provides an update on some of the frequently asked questions that we are hearing from services.

Attendance at Early Childhood Education Services

Early childhood education and care services – including family day care residences and venues– in Greater Sydney including the LGAs of Fairfield, Canterbury/Bankstown and Liverpool, may continue to operate.

In the 3 local government areas, Fairfield, Canterbury/Bankstown and Liverpool, parents are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home if they are able to do so, in order to limit movement in the community.

Attendance at Out of School Hours Care services

Out of School Hours Care services may continue to operate. In line with advice provided to schools, in the Greater Sydney region children attending school will be learning from home for the start of term three. Where parents are unable to provide education and care at home, children will be able to attend school and Out of School Hours Care.

In the 3 local government areas, Fairfield, Canterbury/Bankstown and Liverpool, parents are strongly encouraged to keep their children at home if they are able to do so, in order to limit movement in the community.

Wearing masks in Early Childhood Education and Care services

Masks are required in Early Childhood Education and Care settings in the Greater Sydney region (including indoor and outdoor environments) per the [latest public health order](#).

Exemptions for wearing masks in ECE apply:

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

Cleaning in Early Childhood Education

Cleaning ECE services to enable them to remain open is considered essential work and is able to continue.

Testing requirements for Fairfield LGA

If you live in or are staying in the Fairfield local government area but you work outside this area, you must have a [COVID-19 test](#) **once every 72 hours** (3 days) in order to be allowed to go to work as an [authorised worker](#).

You can go to a [COVID-19 testing clinic](#) near your home or work.

All workers and essential visitors entering your service must adhere to the above testing requirements or should not be allowed to enter if they cannot provide the above evidence. Each service should keep a record of testing of staff to demonstrate compliance with the Public Health Order.

Providing transport to children

Education and care services that provide regular transport to children as part of day-to-day service operations may continue to do under the current Public Health Orders. This includes transporting children to and from home and school.

Services should review their risk assessments and update their transport policy and procedures when necessary to ensure safe hygiene practices are maintained while transport is being provided. This can include consideration of the mode of travel (bus, care or minivan), the number of educators present during the transportation and the ages or special vulnerabilities of the children.

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](#) 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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