

TESTING AND ISOLATING FOR PRESCHOOL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SETTINGS

FROM MARCH 2024

IF A CHILD OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 THEY MUST NOTIFY THE SERVICE. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND WHILE SYMPTOMATIC.

CONTACT DEFINITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Children

Children attending the site undertaking normal learning and care activities



CHILDREN ARE A CLASSROOM CONTACT IF:

- a child who is in a group/room where the early childhood educator, teacher, worker or another child has tested positive for COVID-19
- Parents will be informed there has been a positive case of COVID-19 by the individual service
- if the child has symptoms, they must not attend the service and should get tested as soon as possible
- children (aside from the positive case/s) will be encouraged to continue attending the service if they don't have any symptoms

Early childhood worker, educator or teacher

People working in early childhood settings



YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT IF:

Leaders and managers should apply a pragmatic approach to managing who is or is not a close contact.

- you spend a cumulative period of 4 hours indoors, in close physical proximity and not wearing a mask with another adult who has tested positive for COVID-19

REQUIREMENTS

- undertake 5 rapid antigen tests over a 7-day period following exposure

Ancillary staff

Administrative staff with limited student/child contact, chefs etc.



YOU ARE A CLOSE CONTACT IF:

- you spend a cumulative period of 4 hours indoors, in close physical proximity and not wearing a mask with another adult who has tested positive for COVID-19

REQUIREMENTS

- undertake 5 rapid antigen tests over a 7-day period following exposure

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING

Rapid antigen testing surveillance for all preschool and early childhood education and care staff is strongly recommended. If you choose to do surveillance testing, this must be done every Monday, Wednesday and Friday regardless of the number of days worked in a week. A positive result must be reported to SA Health (within 24 hours) via their website and to your leader.



STAFF OR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED TO UNDERTAKE RAT TESTING OR WHERE THEIR SERVICE/GROUP/ROOM HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY CLOSED AS A CIRCUIT BREAKER IN THE PAST WEEK, SA HEALTH ADVICE IS TO DO THE FOLLOWING FOR 7 DAYS:

- avoid attending OSHC and extra-curricular activities and excursions
- avoid high risk settings
- wear a face mask when indoors and on public transport

- avoid working across worksites unless an approved risk management plan is in place (eg rapid antigen testing)
- avoid contact with vulnerable people outside of your workplace or family, where possible
- avoid non-essential activities where possible (eg where there are lots of people, inside, in close contact)
- avoid shared spaces and maintain physical distance.



Government of South Australia
Department for Education