

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COVID-19 FORWARD PLAN FOR EDUCATION 2021: EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES



FROM 23 NOVEMBER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

GUIDING PRINCIPLE(S): Managing risks associated with the virus entering early childhood services.

It's important to remember that no one measure can minimise spread of the virus. Each risk mitigation forms a layer of protection and minimises likelihood of spread.

DELIVERY MODE

- Early childhood services are open with COVID safe measures in place.
- All staff/educators **working onsite**, unless they have agreed (case-by-case) management plans with their site leader.
- Early childhood services remain **open unless directed to close** by SA Health due to a confirmed case or in the event of significant outbreak.
 - If a **confirmed case(s)** is identified the site will be directed to **close and undertake additional cleaning**. The site will reopen to all staff/educators and children other than those directed to quarantine at the soonest possible time on advice from SA Health.
 - If SA Health identifies a significant **regional/localised outbreak**, sites will remain open with skeleton staff/educators only for children that need to attend.

SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS

Please refer to the South Australian COVID-19 Forward Plan for Education 2021: Schools and Preschools.

COVID SAFE MEASURES

- **Vaccination:**
 - all staff, governing council members and employees, contractors and volunteers must receive **at least 1 dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine by 10 December 2021**
 - all staff/educators must update their **vaccination status** with their employer (for Department for Education staff this is via EIK).
- **Masks optional indoors** for adults, including staff/educators until SA Health requirement to reinstate in response to transmission risk. Masks recommended for all adult visitors to site.
- Maximise natural **ventilation** by leaving doors/windows open, continue to use air-conditioning (set to fresh air intake where available) and fans, including with doors and windows open, use outdoor learning spaces where appropriate.
- Maintain **good hygiene practices**, including hand washing, sanitiser availability/use.
- If **unwell**, children and staff/volunteers must stay home, regardless of vaccination status or test outcome.
- Ensure regular environmental **cleaning** throughout the day through maintaining full adherence to the National Health and Medical Research Council childcare cleaning guidelines. Department for Education sites have additional daily cleaning.
- All staff and visitors are required to **COVID-Safe check in** when entering a building.
- **Physical distancing** of 1.5 metres particularly for those with face mask exemptions.

SITE OPERATIONS

- Visitors, including parents, allowed on site and events can proceed as long as **all COVID Safe requirements** are in place and followed - ie. physical distancing, QR check-in or visitor record of attendance, face mask, sanitiser/hygiene, stay home if unwell. As always, have contingency plans in place and be prepared to postpone or cancel if health settings change.
- Where possible/applicable:
 - sleep children at least 1.5m apart or head to toe to reduce transmission risk
 - use signage etc to encourage adults to practice physical distancing when on site.
 - modify shifts and rosters, or pick-up and drop-off times to reduce peak periods
 - limit staff moving between services.

CONTACT

Refer to the [Department for Education website](#) for more information.