

D-32 Covid-19

NQS

QA. 2.1	Health
QA. 2.1.2	Health practices and procedures.
QA. 2.2	Safety.
QA. 2.2.1	Supervision.
QA. 3.1.2	Upkeep.
QA. 5.1	Relationships between educators and children.
QA. 5.1.2	Dignity and rights of the child.
QA. 6.1	Supportive relationships with families.
QA. 7.1.2	Management systems.

National Regulations

Reg. 77	Health, hygiene and safe food practices
Reg. 85	Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
Reg. 86	Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
Reg. 87	Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
Reg. 88	Infectious diseases
Reg. 89	First aid kits
Reg. 160	Child enrolment records to be kept by approved provider and family day care educator
Reg. 161	Authorisations to be kept in enrolment record
Reg. 162	Health information to be kept in enrolment record
Reg. 168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
Reg. 171	Policies and procedures to be kept available
Reg. 173	Prescribed information to be displayed

My Time, Our Place

LO. 1	Children and young people feel safe, secure, and supported
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Policy Statement

We aim to ensure all Educators, families and children implement appropriate risk management procedures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We will take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through the implementation of procedures that are consistent with the guidelines of the state Health Authorities. Any person with COVID-19 will be excluded from the Centre for the period recommended by the Department of Health.

All care and consideration will be given to the child who becomes ill while at the Centre, ensuring they are kept comfortable and ensuring the risk of cross infection is minimised until the child is collected by the parent/emergency contact.

Related Policies

- Epping North OSHC Policy A-4: Enrolment
- Epping North OSHC Policy A-17: Privacy and Confidentiality
- Epping North OSHC Policy D-2: Hygiene
- Epping North OSHC Policy D-4: Food Safety and Handling
- Epping North OSHC Policy D-10: First Aid
- Epping North OSHC Policy D-14: Immunisation
- Epping North OSHC Policy D-21: HIV/AIDS/HEP B & C

Procedure

The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor and Educators will follow strict hygiene and infection control procedures at all times to prevent or minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Educators and families must:

Comply with government guidance

The Approved Provider, Educators and volunteers and families must:

- **comply with guidance issued by Government agencies**, this includes:
 - ensuring they/a child/a family member stays at home if having cold or flu symptoms until acute symptoms have gone.
 - Stay up to date with recommended Covid-19 vaccinations
 - Register positive rapid antigen test results with Service NSW.
- **seek medical attention** if they develop a fever, cough, sore throat or shortness of breath
- **advise the service** if they develop symptoms of the virus or are confirmed to have the virus. This is particularly important if they have been at the service before isolation
- If a child or staff member is unwell, they should not attend the service.

If a child or staff member has tested positive, they must isolate and should not attend the service while acute symptoms are present.

It is recommended that students and staff that return to school after recovering from COVID-19 do not participate in rapid antigen testing for 4 weeks, unless they develop new COVID-19 symptoms. This is due to NSW Health advice that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have a low risk of contracting it again in the following 4 weeks.

- The privacy and confidentiality of anyone who tested positive to Covid-19 must always be maintained.

Educators, volunteers and families must also comply with any isolation/exclusion periods in relation to coronavirus implemented by the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor including periods which exceed government requirements.

Implement effective hygiene process

The coronavirus is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious and two days before symptoms appear
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes
- touching objects or surfaces like door handles or tables contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

Educators and volunteers will ensure they continue to implement hygiene processes outlined in the D-2: Hygiene and D-4 Food safety and Handling Policies to ensure high standards of hygiene and infection control at all times. This includes ensuring that Educators and where relevant children:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water including before and after eating or handling food, going to the toilet, using gloves, and after wiping or touching nose and cleaning up spills of body fluids
- cough and sneeze into their inner elbow, or use a tissue to cover their mouth and nose and placing tissues in the bin immediately after use
- Staff and visitors in ECE services should continue to be supported to wear a mask should they choose to do so.

If using alcohol-based hand sanitiser in place of soap it will contain 60-80% alcohol.

In addition, the Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor will ensure cleaning requirements are documented and completed regularly, and cleaning staff, including contracted cleaning staff, implement the precautions outlined in the 'Information for Employers' Sheet including:

- wearing gloves and washing hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves
- wearing surgical masks if person with the virus or in isolation has been in the area being cleaned.

The Approved Provider and Nominated Supervisor will ensure hand hygiene posters are displayed in areas which can easily be seen by families, including the front entrance, and require all Educators and families to use hand sanitiser provided at service entrances.

Information and notification requirements

The Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor will:

- report instances of confirmed coronavirus to families, staff and visitors of the service
- comply with notification requirements to be reported through NQAITS for serious incidents which include:
 - any incident involving serious illness of a child at the service where the child attended, or should have attended, a hospital
 - any emergency where emergency services attended i.e., there was an imminent or severe risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a person at the service

Interactions with Children

Where appropriate, educators will speak with children about the coronavirus in ways that do not alarm them or cause unnecessary fear or distress. Educators may, for example, discuss with children their feelings in relation to the virus, remind children that the risk of catching the illness is very low, review hygiene measures they can take to reduce the risk of infection, discuss some of the good

things happening in the world, or implement other strategies outlined in our C-13 Relationships with Children Policy. Educators will be careful not to speak to others in an alarmist way about the coronavirus if children are present or within hearing.

Attendance and Fees

As outlined in our Fees Policy, fees are payable for all days that children are enrolled, including when children are sick and cannot attend.

Fees may also be payable if the centre is directed to close or closes voluntarily to contain the spread of the virus. When determining whether to charge fees, the Approved Provider will consider all relevant issues including the likely length of the closure, whether they need to pay staff during the closure, and if they will receive any support from Government to maintain the financial viability of the business.

Sources

- Education and Care Services National Law 2010
- Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
- Fair Work Ombudsman 'Coronavirus and Australian Workplace laws'
- Federal Department of Health coronavirus information sheets
- National Quality Standard
- Work, Health and Safety Laws and Regulations
- Work Health and Safety Act 2011
- Privacy Act 1988
- NSW Department of Health Guidelines

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