

COVID-19

Information for Families Keeping Safe and Healthy at Preschool

Tuesday, 28 April 2020

Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) COVID-19 statement

On Friday, 3 April the AHPPC issued a [statement about COVID-19 in children and early childhood and learning centres](#). The AHPPC considered the issue of COVID-19 in children and management of Early Childhood and Learning Centres (ECLC) in relation to the community transmission of COVID-19.

The statement is based on emerging epidemiologic reports on COVID-19 in children, the health evidence and modelling from previous respiratory epidemics.

The AHPPC considers that Early Childhood Learning Centres are essential services and should continue at this time, but with risk mitigation measures in place.

Keeping safe and healthy at preschool

It is a privilege and a great responsibility to be with you and your child during this unusual and unsettling time. We have reviewed our high standards of safety and hygiene practices and are reassured that they are in line with the AHPPC recommendations. The following measures are in place at our centre:

- Children, families and staff and essential visitors who are unwell are excluded.
- All children, parents, staff, essential visitors wash or sanitise their hands upon entry to the centre.
- Monitor hand washing routines.
- Extensive environmental cleaning routines using recommended cleaning products.
- Where and when possible, spend time in outside play.
- Where and when possible, increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning.
- Suspended shared fruit times.
- Clean and sanitize resources and toys after use.
- Wash and launder play items.
- Removed cushions and dress up resources.
- Clean and disinfect high touch surfaces at least daily.
- Staggered drop off & pick up times and encouraging where possible one parent only to drop off and pick up their child.
- Families limiting their time in the carpark, and at drop off and pick up zones.

Restrictions on entry into ELC's

The recommendations also state that the following individuals, (families, visitors and staff including visiting workers) should not be permitted to enter our centre:

- Those who have returned from overseas in the last 14 days.
- Those who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days.
 - A contact is defined as anyone who has been in contact with a known case, including the 24 hours before the case became symptomatic.
- Those with fever or symptoms of acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, runny nose, shortness of breath) symptoms.

Support for families

We recognise that there is a lot of information to take in at the moment, as well as a lot of new routines and expectations. Please do not hesitate to talk to the Centre Director or your child's teacher or educator. We invite any questions or queries; it is important to all of us that we continue to support each other as we find our way through this time.

'Beside each other, in love and patience, we can prepare a better time in these day'

Pope Francis

We are open, and here to support you, now and in the coming days, weeks and months.