

EDUCATION AND CARE

COVID-19 NEWSLETTER

28 February 2022

TOPICS THIS FORTNIGHT

Guidance for families on Outbreak Management in ECECs

The ECU has developed the [Information for families Outbreaks in ECEC](#) booklet as an easy-to-read brochure that explains the definitions of ECEC contacts, the nature of outbreaks in ECECs and its impact on families.

This document explains the three stages under the COVID-19 Case and Outbreak Management Guidelines and how parents/carers can complement this by having a better understanding of the testing, isolation and quarantine requirements imposed on ECEC contacts in different situations.

Changes to the Check-in TAS app

The Check-in TAS app no longer needs to be used in early childhood education and care facilities. However, it will still be required at higher-risk venues. A full list of locations that require use of Check-in TAS can be found on the Public Health [website](#).

As ECEC sites no longer need to check-in via the app, Check-in Tas signs can be removed from your site. However, services should retain their original QR codes in case check-ins are required in the future.

Evidence not required when recovered from COVID-19

Children and ECEC staff who have recovered from COVID-19 are not required to provide evidence of a

negative test when returning to ECEC. Evidence does not need to be provided if they are well and do not have symptoms.

Public Health advice is that individuals can leave isolation seven days from the date of their positive test result unless they are still experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Changes to quarantine periods for close contacts

The Premier announced in his [press release](#) on 23 February 2022 that from Saturday, 26 February 2022, the requirements for close contacts to quarantine will change.

The period of quarantine for a household contact will be seven days starting from the date of diagnosis of the first household case. This means when a case leaves seven-day isolation, the household close contact can also leave their seven-day quarantine.

The close contact's quarantine period will be completed even if another family member has been diagnosed within the household during the seven-day period. The seven-day quarantine will not be affected if the person quarantining as a close contact has not developed symptoms and has returned a negative RAT test on day one and day six.

When will services receive their next supply of RATs?

The Department of Health has now commenced the 5th week of delivery of RATs. If you have not received your supply of RATs by the end of next week, please let the ECU know and we will follow-up.

How to use RATs

If a child has COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay at home and use a RAT.

Manufacturers of RATs do not recommend use on children under the age of 2 years. Public Health recommends the use of PCR testing as an alternative.

Public Health has provided an infographic on [how to use a RAT](#).

What to do with your RAT test result

If a negative result is returned, and your child is feeling well, they can attend care.

If a child tests COVID-19 positive, the service provider must notify the ECU.

Refer to our [COVID-19 FAQs for Service Providers - Notifications](#) for further information.

Where you can go to find more information:

The [ECU COVID-19 enquiry process](#) informs services of the immediate steps to take when a positive case has been identified at an Education and Care setting.

Our [Resources for living with and managing COVID-19 in ECEC services - Education and Care](#) contains guidance and information on responding to COVID-19 related matters as we move towards living with COVID-19.

The [FAQs on ECU website](#) are frequently updated with the latest information.

Call the dedicated ECU COVID Advice team on 6165 5438 OR 6165 6508 (operating weekdays between 9:00 am – 5:00 pm)

Send an email to: ECU.COVID19@education.tas.gov.au

You will receive either a written response, or your Point of Contact (POC) Authorised Officer might call you.

On occasion, ECU will contact Public Health on your behalf to find out the information you need.

This means there may be a delay in getting information to you.

- From Public Health:
 - Phone 1800 671 738
 - [Coronavirus website](#)
- [Australian Government, Department of Education, Skills and Employment](#) Website

NOTE:

We recommend contacting ECU directly where possible, and only using Public Health resources on the weekend or after hours.

The Education and Care Unit,
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