

# EDUCATION AND CARE

## ECU NEWSLETTER

7 April 2022

### GENERAL TOPICS

#### Safe Sleep awareness campaign

The Safe Sleep Week campaign recently concluded on 13 March 2022. It is important your service is aware of the real risks of sudden and unexpected death in infancy. Implementation of safe sleep recommendations will minimise harm to children – particularly infants.

Services are encouraged to refresh their awareness of Safe Sleep principles and practices. Further resources can be found on the [ACECOA website](#).

#### Updated A&R reporting format

Changes to the A&R reporting format have been made to improve the readability and accessibility of our A&R reports.

ECU aims to make these reports more meaningful, easier to share and incorporate into services' continuous improvement processes. An [information sheet](#) has been developed to give details about the changes.

Feedback about this new report format may be given through your Authorised Officer or email the Quality Team directly at [Quality.ECU@education.tas.gov.au](mailto:Quality.ECU@education.tas.gov.au).

### COVID-19 TOPICS

#### ECU COVID-19 Hotline closure

The ECU's COVID-19 Advice Team and hotline will cease at 5pm on Thursday, 14 April 2022. The ECU will

return our focus to our regulatory function and promoting high quality education and care for children.

Your COVID-19 queries may impact on your compliance with the National Law or Child Care Act. It is recommended you keep in touch with your point-of-contact officer to discuss concerns you may have.

Services should refer to the Public Health website for advice on COVID-19 queries. Where a query requires specific Public Health advice, please contact them on 1800 671 738. The ECU website COVID FAQs will continue to be updated to reflect current Public Health advice.

#### Case Notifications – NQAITS

Services are reminded to notify of COVID-19 cases on the NQAITS and inform their point-of-contact of subsequent cases within 7 days of the original notification.

#### No changes to vaccination requirements for entrants into ECEC settings

There is no change to the vaccination requirements for people who enter into/remain at ECEC settings. The [Public Health Direction](#) will remain in force until it is revoked by the Director of Public Health. Public Health has also confirmed 'all of the doses' only means the primary doses (first 2 doses) and does not include the booster.

#### Testing during outbreaks

Public Health has advised testing during outbreaks is only a recommendation and is not mandatory. The decision to test or not is the responsibility of individual services.

An update to the [Outbreak Management Guideline for ECEC settings](#) is being finalised and will be released to the sector to reflect all changes.

The ECU will update the template letters for services to use as a guide to facilitate communication of COVID-19 management processes.

### Use of RATs

Manuals contained in your Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kit may suggest you take a PCR test immediately if your RAT is positive.

Public Health has assured a follow-up PCR test is not needed if a RAT returns a positive result. If you have any concerns, please contact the Public Health Hotline directly on 1800 671 738.

### Supply of RATs

The government's final supply of RATs was on Friday, 11 March 2022. The ECU has a supply of RATs available at each of our regional offices in Devonport, Launceston and Lindisfarne should any service need access in event of an outbreak.

Services that require additional RATs or have surplus RATs they would like to return are advised to contact Janelle Brennan on 6165 5435.

### Tasmania's strategy for influenza and COVID-19 management

The Department of Health (DoH) has released its [2022 Winter Strategy](#) to ensure the State is prepared to manage both COVID-19 and influenza peaks should they occur separately or in tandem.

As part of a heightened response, DoH is increasing vaccination availability and testing to detect influenza and COVID-19. Treatment stockpiles will be upkept to manage the increased demand.

The ECU has provided to DoH the contact details for all our approved services in and out-of-scope to enable them to provide you with information about flu vaccinations.

### Where you can find more information:

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.

### Contact details

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