

Education and Care Unit 'Living with COVID-19' Response Plan

The ECU is working closely with providers and services to meet the challenges of a new phase of responding to COVID-19. This Plan outlines the approach we are taking to prepare for the opening of the Tasmanian border and the period of transition that will follow. This will require a new way of managing the virus.

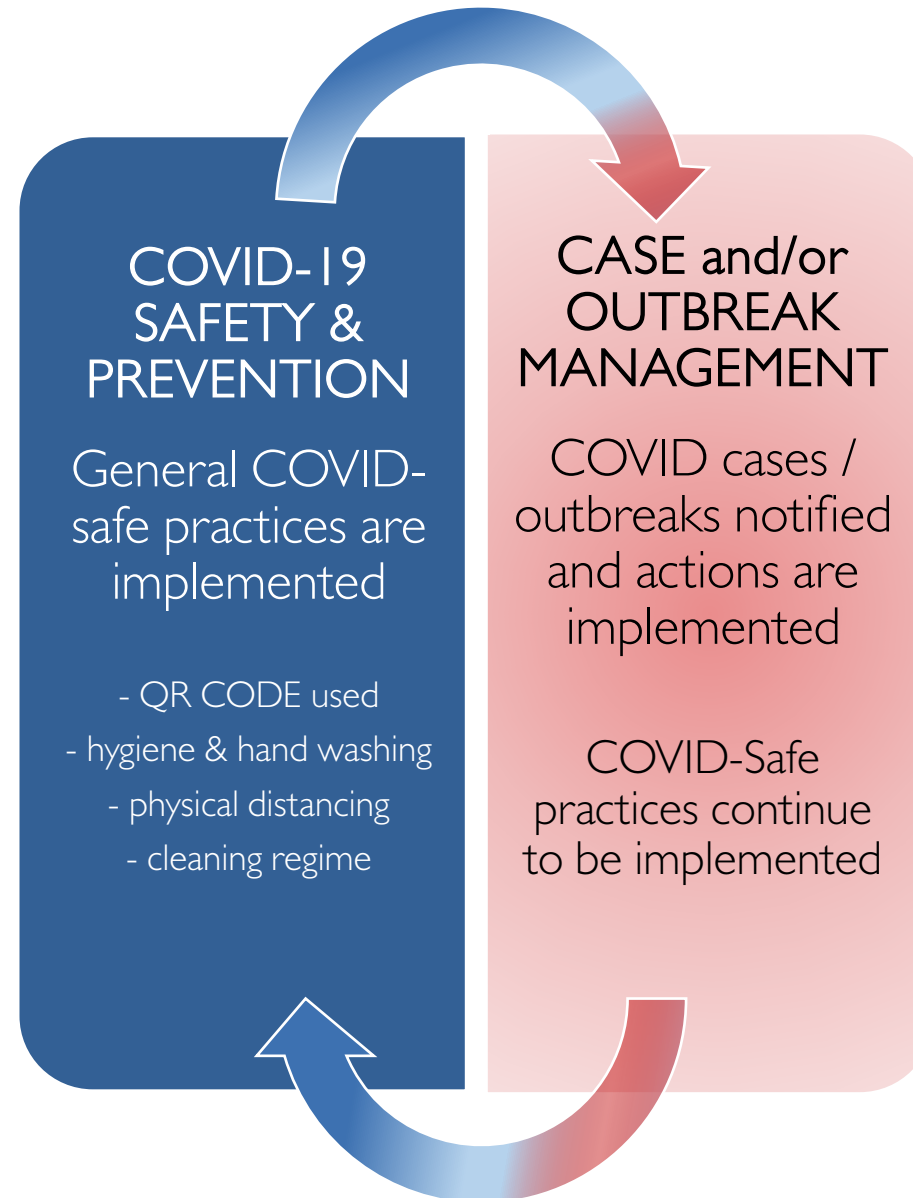
The 'Living with COVID-19' diagram below indicates movement between phases of Prevention and Managing Cases and/or Outbreaks.

Prevention and Safety focus

- ECU operates on basis of 'business as usual'
- Adhere to COVID-19 safety plan requirements

ECU response

- Unannounced visits to services will be conducted
- Support and monitoring for compliance purposes may include scheduled visits to services
- Visits will be scheduled for assessment and rating, waiver applications and licensing renewals
- Meetings will continue to be scheduled and conducted (these may be online *or* face to face meetings)
- ECU staff are operational and all offices are open (unless otherwise notified)



Case and outbreak management

- ECU operations are adjusted in response to:
 - Public Health advice and directives regarding cases and/or outbreaks of COVID-19
 - Notifications and management of COVID-19 cases
 - Localised outbreaks of COVID-19

ECU response*

- Support and monitoring will continue remotely
- Existing scheduled visits to services will be postponed and be rescheduled in consultation with services
- Unannounced visits will not be conducted
- Visits to service premises will be considered for high-risk matters only
- Meetings with providers and services will be held online
- Cases and/or outbreaks of COVID-19 may impact on availability of ECU staff and office hours (changes will be notified)

* Please note that these measures may be applied in response to COVID-19 cases / outbreaks identified within regions, suburbs or individual services.

The ECU 'Living with COVID' Response Plan is informed by:

- The objectives and guiding principles of the [National Quality Framework](#) (NQF)
- Tasmania's [COVID-19 Safe Workplaces Framework](#)
- Consultation with the ECEC sector
- Department of Education COVID-Safe policies
- The objectives of the [Child Care Act](#) (Tasmania)
- A collaborative and responsive regulatory approach
- Effective risk assessment and management processes

For more information, please refer to the [ECU website](#) or the [Coronavirus Tasmania website](#).

*This plan is subject to change as circumstances change.
We will continue to communicate with you about any changes.*