

Q: What is the health and safety advice for early childhood in the context of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

An update (1/10/2020) has been provided by the Acting Victorian Chief Health Officer in regard to maintaining a COVIDSafe early childhood and education (ECEC) service.

Services should note the following;

- A COVIDSafe framework for ECEC services has been developed that brings together the advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and Victoria's COVIDSafe principles for business.
- Temperature checks under the Roadmap Second Step and Roadmap Third Step are now optional.

Due to the current levels of community transmission in Victoria, mandatory temperature testing for all children on arrival to ECEC'S will not be routinely required in Term 4.

Although ECEC's can choose to continue with temperature screening of children on arrival.

- Single use face masks should not be worn longer than 4 hours without changing.
- Parents should not enter playrooms.
- Visitors to services

| Roadmap Second Step | Roadmap Third Step |
|--|---|
| Visitors (other than those currently essential for critical ECEC operations) are not permitted in the second step. | To keep ECEC as controlled environments limit the number of adults onsite at any one time. Prioritise visitors who are most important to meeting children's learning and development needs, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Allied health conducting individual assessments.- A foundation teacher meeting with an EC teacher.- Service management staff or Authorised officers. |

- Kindergarten Transition Program

| Roadmap Second Step | Roadmap Third Step |
|---------------------|---|
| No | Limited to small groups only (under 10) to meet foundation teacher in school environment. |

- No parent volunteers on site (Roadmap Step 2 & 3).
- No tours for prospective families (Roadmap Step 2 & 3).
- No parent information sessions (Roadmap Step 2 & 3).

- No photographers (Roadmap Step 2 & 3).
- Bush kindergarten and Beach kindergarten programs can occur.
- No incursions
- Excursions

| Roadmap Second Step | Roadmap Third Step |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| No, except for walking to the park. | Limited to exclusive use of a venue by a single ECEC service at a time. Can only be third step area to third step area. |

- Services must keep visitor records and maintain appropriate PPE.

You can read the summary of the Term 4 update from the Acting Victorian Deputy Chief Health Officer at https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/departments/covid-19/health-and-safety-advice-term4-ec.pdf?utm_source=email+marketing+Mailigen&utm_campaign=Direct+Send+-+Emergency&utm_medium=email

Detailed guidance is available at www.education.vic.gov.au

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact ELAA at member memberservices@ela.org.au