

COVID-19:

Minimising cross infection

Early childhood education and care (ECEC) services play a vital role in supporting the efforts to contain and slow the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus). There are steps that can be taken by services to reduce the risk of cross infection and are outlined here for your reference



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

- Where possible have **hand sanitiser** at all entrances and encourage its use before entering the service
- Encourage **proper handwashing practices** and **covering coughs and sneezes**
- Practice good hygiene and **food preparation practices**
- Ensure electronic equipment such as e-signature devices, computers and phones are **disinfected regularly**
- Ensure children **wash their hands** upon arrival and before collection
- **Avoid** sending children to the bathroom as a group to wash their hands



BE VIGILANT

- Conduct **regular and routine cleaning** of toys and equipment
- Ensure beds and cots are at least **1.5 metres apart** and **disinfected daily**, regardless of use
- **Encourage families** to keep their child at home if they are unwell
- **Regularly check** the Coronavirus (COVID-19) health alerts at [Australian Government Department of Health](https://www.health.gov.au)



CONSIDER YOUR ROUTINE

- Increase **outdoor learning** activities provided throughout the day
- Stagger **lunch and snack times** for children to ensure larger groups are not together
- **Cease whole-centre activities** that bring children and adults together at the one time
- **Cease** all excursions



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REDUCE YOUR NUMBERS

- Reduce the number of families assembling at one time by **staggering drop off and collection times**
- Arrange **dedicated drop off and collection times** outside regular school hours to ensure families do not have school-aged children with them
- Collect/dismiss children from the gate and **ask families to wait outside** to minimise access to the service
- **Cease volunteer access** to the service
- **Limit group activities** run by specialist staff

Parents seeking more information should be encouraged to contact the [National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080](https://www.health.gov.au). The line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Further information on COVID-19 and reducing the risk of cross-infection (Stop the Spread page), and guidance on Handling and Preparing Food practices can be found on the [SA Health website](https://www.health.gov.au).