



Tuesday 5 January 2021

Important Update Public Health Order

Dear Families,

Thank you for your ongoing support during the recent COVID 19 wave through NSW, as we welcome in 2021 and thank you for your support and efforts this far. We know it's been a challenging time for children, families, educators, teachers and staff alike.

On Saturday 2 January 2020, the NSW Government released an update to the [NSW Public Health Order](#) relating to the mandating of Mask Wearing in certain settings including;

- retail premises or business premises that provide goods or services to members of the public who attend the premises, including
- supermarkets
- shopping centres, but not a recreation facility (indoor) in a shopping centre
- bank branches
- post offices
- Service NSW centres
- hairdressing salons
- nail salons
- beauty salons
- tanning salons
- waxing salons
- spas
- tattoo parlours
- massage parlours
- betting agencies
- gaming lounges
- entertainment facilities
- gaming areas in licensed premises (including casinos)
- premises, including places of public worship, being used for public worship or religious services
- residential aged care facilities (rule applies to visitors, not residents).
- Health services: premises that are used for the purpose of providing health services are not retail premises or business premises.

Early Education and Care Services do not fall in to the categories where mask wearing is required under the Public Health Order, and as such staff will not be required to wear masks.

Parents or visitors to the service are not mandated to wear a mask in a Service, however we do strongly advise the wearing of a mask when on premises; this includes upon delivering your child, when collecting or any orientation activities that you may be attending in a service.

Please refer to the [NSW Public Health Alert](#) and [NSW COVID-19 Rules](#) for additional information

We would like to remind families of the importance of completing temperature checks for all persons entering the service and recording this information accurately on the Busy Bees COVID-19 Health and Temperature Check Register each time you enter the service. Staff will continue to monitor children's temperatures throughout the day, and should a child present with a temperature above 37.5 degrees, as per NSW Health advice, we will call a parent or emergency contact to have the child collected.

Where a child or family member presents with any COVID-19 symptoms a COVID-19 test is required, once a negative result is received and the child is well enough to return to the service results of the test are to be provided to the service upon return to care.

If your child becomes unwell at home, we request that you do not bring them to the Service but inform us of the reason for their absence. The safeguarding of the health and wellbeing of our children, staff and wider communities is our top priority and we will continue to act in accordance with the latest public health advice from the Australian Government.

When a child is absent or sick on a routine and booked day, standard daily fees apply and are payable in full as per the Busy Bees Fee Policy. Busy Bees will monitor the Dept of Education Skills and Employment website for notifications and updates relating to the Public Health Order and shall provide families with additional information should any come to hand.

Absences form Care, please note:

- Whether a child is actually ill or not, including where a child does not attend care as part of the family's own precautionary measure against potential contact with COVID-19, Child Care Subsidy (CCS) can be paid for up to 42 absence days per child, per financial year, without the need for families to provide documentation.
- Once a child's 42 initial absences have been used, CCS can be paid for additional absences including illness. Evidence is required to be kept by the childcare centre for any additional absences claimed, e.g. a doctor's certificate.
- If a child is not ill, and does not attend care (as part of the family's own precautionary measure against potential contact with COVID-19, some medical practitioners may support families by providing a medical certificate allowing them access to additional absences, if required.
- If a child is not ill and does not attend care for a longer period of time families will be required to complete a new "Complying Written Arrangement" form.

Should you keep your child at home on a day where they are usually enrolled; we ask that you notify the service using the Kindy Now App. The KindyNow App provides Families with an easy way to notify us of your child's absences and this will assist us in roster management during this COVID-19 wave, and will support staff in managing incoming phone calls at the service.

Simply download the KindyNow app to get started:



If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please contact the Service Manager directly. We thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Warm Regards,

Fiona Alston
Chief Operating Officer