



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

4 February 2022

Dear foster and kinship carers

For almost two years, we have been experiencing the impacts of COVID-19 on our lives. I wanted to take a moment to write to you and personally express my heartfelt appreciation and thanks for everything you are doing to care for some of Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people.

No matter what situation you have been faced with – and there have been many this past two years – you have stepped up and stuck with it, keeping our children safe and well.

These times are unlike any we have ever experienced, and from home schooling to snap lockdowns to the various changes in our homes and workplaces, you have had to adapt and change so frequently. And whilst this must have been so hard, you have handled this so very well.

I never cease to be amazed at the commitment of our foster and kinship carers in supporting children in care.

I acknowledge that now is a particularly busy time for families with ongoing changes due to COVID-19, settling back into a routine and getting children ready to start a new school year. Thank you for all you are doing, and for persevering in these challenging times.

Thank you also to those who have worked with their CSO regarding vaccination arrangements for all children over five years. The COVID-19 vaccine remains one of the best things we can do to protect ourselves, our families and communities.

Since early January 2022, family contact has been occurring mostly by phone and online. I understand this may have had a considerable impact on you and the children and young people in your care. As we approach 90% full vaccination rates in Queensland, and with children over five years old now having access to the vaccine, I am pleased that face-to-face contact visits are resuming where it is safe to do so.

Keep informed

We will continue to provide information on COVID-19 through:

- peak bodies — PeakCare, Queensland Foster and Kinship Care, CREATE Foundation and the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSIPP)
- foster and kinship care service providers
- [Department website](#)
- Carer Connect app





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If you have any questions and need to talk to your Child Safety Officer, please email them in the first instance. Alternatively, you can call your child safety service centre or contact the Foster and Kinship Carer Support Line on 1300 729 309.

It's important that you continue to follow health advice to stay safe and well. For up-to-date Queensland COVID-19 information, please visit the [Queensland Health website](#). The [Queensland Government 'COVID-Ready' website](#) and the department's [dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#) which includes useful information to support you if you have concerns about how COVID-19 may impact you and the child or young person in your care.

On behalf of my colleagues, I would like to thank you again for the valued and valuable care you provide to Queensland children and young people in care. You are all extraordinary and resilient people that we are so thankful to have doing what you do in these tough times.

Please know we are here if you need support and assistance. Stay safe and well.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General

Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

