



Director-General's COVID-19 UPDATE

Deidre Mulkerin | Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

Dear colleagues,

I hope you enjoyed your well-earned Easter break.

It's been encouraging to see that due to the many changes we've made as a community that we appear to be 'flattening the curve' and slowing the spread of COVID-19 in Queensland.

While this gives us hope that things will be more regular sooner rather than later, we're still a long way from returning to business as usual.

Thank you for continuing to adapt how you operate to enable delivery of the services that many Queensland children, young people, women and families rely on.

School attendance for children of essential workers and vulnerable children

On Monday, the Premier announced that Queensland school students will be learning at home for the first five weeks of Term 2, with schools only open for the children of essential workers, vulnerable children, and children in designated Indigenous communities.

Department of Education advice is that children of essential workers may be able to attend school on days when they are not able to be supervised at home and no other arrangements can be made.

Essential worker means any worker who must continue to attend their workplace for essential business during this time and cannot work from home.

Vulnerable children include children identified by schools or who are currently receiving services from Child Safety.

More information is available on the [Department of Education website](#). Parents and organisations should contact their schools if they have any queries.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

I know how important, at this time, it is to have adequate supplies of appropriate PPE, including hand sanitiser, gloves and masks. Having to implement strict hygiene practice may have led to increased need for cleaning and sanitation. There is work underway to model PPE requirements for the sector. If you are unable to source critical supplies at the moment, we may be able to help, please discuss with your contract manager.





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COVID-19 webpage

Since my message last week we've added some more questions and answers for service providers to the [COVID-19 page on our website](#).

The questions cover off on the impact of border restrictions and the Home Confinement, Movement and Gathering Direction, and eligibility for the JobKeeper payment.

We're adding questions and answers to the webpage as they arise so I encourage you to check it regularly.

I know over the past few weeks you have been working incredibly hard under difficult circumstances. Adapting your business to meet government health directives has not been easy, but you are managing to do it, and this is very much appreciated.

Those of you now working from home are probably finding like I did that it has its advantages and disadvantages. I shared the following list (courtesy of Dr Neil Carrington, CEO, Act for Kids) with my staff last week, and I think it is worth sharing more broadly.

When working from home, it's OK:

- to take breaks during the day and make sure you stop for lunch
- to start and finish work like you used to, and have a life
- to test new ways of doing things, and if you make mistakes, try something new.
- if your kids interrupt you if you're working from home, if they need your help with something
- if your kids or pets pop up in your Skype meetings
- to talk to your line manager if something you've been asked to do makes life unnecessarily hard
- to ask for help if you need it
- most importantly, to look after your own health and wellbeing.

Please take care of yourself, and stay safe.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin
Director-General
Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women