



19/10/2022

Covid Update- Educators

With the recent changes to Government Funding and Isolation requirements we have compiled a summary of the new guidelines and links as found below:

Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment - Ended 14/10/2022

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/pandemic-leave-disaster-payment>

Gap Fee Waiving

Families who receive Child Care Subsidy (CCS) must ordinarily make a co-contribution to their childcare fees under Family Assistance Law. They do this by paying the difference between the childcare service fee and the CCS amount. This is known as the gap fee.

Up to the 30 June 2023 services will be able to waive the gap fee for families and continue to receive CCS if a child is unable to attend care for one of three reasons.

You may waive the gap fee if:

1. The child, or a member of their immediate household, has tested positive with COVID-19 in the last 7 days.

2. The child is at a higher risk of severe disease from COVID-19.

This includes:

- children with a disability
- children with severe chronic health conditions
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Where the child has a disability or chronic health condition, the family must provide a letter from a medical practitioner confirming the child is at higher risk before you can waive the gap fee. You must keep a record of the letter.

3. The service, or a room at the service, is closed due to COVID-19.

This includes closures:

- because educator-to-child ratios cannot be safely met while educators have tested positive to COVID-19 in the last 7 days.
- because a Family Day Care or In Home Care educator can't provide their usual service while they, or a member of their immediate household, have tested positive with COVID-19 in the last 7 days.

You must not waive the gap fee for families in any other circumstances. If a family chooses to keep their child at home and use absences, they must still pay the gap fee.

- Please note that waiving the gap fee is a business decision, meaning this choice is made by each individual Educator running their service. It is not mandatory.

Changes to COVID-19 Isolation Recommendations:

From 14 October 2022, it will no longer be mandatory for Queenslanders to self-isolate at home when they test positive to COVID-19.

However, as you are aware, Service Providers will still be responsible for the effective management of infectious diseases within their services.

Under the Public Health Act 2005, there are several infectious diseases, including COVID-19, that require people to be excluded from early childhood education and care services.

Refer to [Queensland Health's Time Out poster - Keeping your child and other kids healthy](#) (attached) for more information. This has also been uploaded to the Enhance Portal under resources.

In relation to COVID-19, Time Out states: '*Exclude those who have symptoms and relevant contacts.*' If you as the educator or a child in your care have symptoms or have tested positive to COVID-19, Queensland Health strongly recommends you:

- stay home to isolate until you no longer have acute respiratory symptoms
- wear a face mask in an indoor setting and if you are unable to physically distance outside for at least 7 days after testing positive to COVID-19
- avoid contact with people who are a higher risk of severe disease
- wash your hands regularly (hand sanitiser, cleaning of high touch points)
- practice good respiratory hygiene (such as covering your cough)

Who these guidelines apply to

These guidelines apply to a person in Queensland that has **tested positive to COVID-19 within the previous 7 days**, or a person who has **any symptoms of an acute respiratory infection**.

If you test positive to COVID-19, you should follow the [First steps if you have COVID-19](#) and the guidelines on this page.

Isolating while you are infectious

Isolation is an effective way of reducing the spread of **all respiratory viruses, including COVID-19**. You should stay at home during the infectious period of a disease to help prevent transmission.

Queensland Health strongly recommends that, except in exceptional circumstances and where medical care is required, you should **stay home to isolate** while you have any symptoms of an **acute respiratory infection**, until:

- your acute respiratory symptoms have substantially reduced AND
- you have gone for at least 24 hours without a fever without using fever-reducing medications

Tell your social, work and education contacts to get tested if they have symptoms

It's likely you will have been in contact with other people while you were infectious. It's possible you have spread the virus to others (without knowing) in the 2 days before you had symptoms or found out you have COVID-19.

If you have been in contact with anyone during that period, you need to tell them you have COVID-19 so they can monitor their own health and get tested if they feel unwell.

Please also notify your Practice Mentor, the Enhance FDC Admin Team, families registered for care or if you have children, the school or childcare they go to.

[Guidelines for a person diagnosed with COVID-19 or symptoms of an acute respiratory infection in Queensland | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#)

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/exposed-to-covid/close-contacts>

For any further information or clarification please connect in with your Practice Mentor.

Kind regards,

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