

## 7.09 (a) Child Care Contagious Virus/Pandemic Policy

<b>Policy number</b> PCCS.7.09(a)	<b>Authorised by:</b> Monica Langfeldt	
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This policy relates to	
National Quality Standards	<p>2.1 Each child’s health and physical activity is supported and promoted.</p> <p>2.1.2 Effective illness and injury management and hygiene practices are promoted and implemented.</p>
Policies	<p>7.10 Immunisation Policy</p> <p>7.22 (a) Health Hygiene commitment plan</p>

### Purpose

To maintain a healthy care environment for children

### Scope of policy

Family Day Care Educators, IHC families and educators need to abide by the same guidelines.

### Policy statement

Contagious Virus/ pandemic

The service policy during times of a pandemic will be to follow the recommendations of the Health Department and government guidelines.

Preventative measures include:

Requirement- children or adults who are symptomatic must not enter the care environment. Where there are areas of concern identified by the Health department for any contagious virus that falls into the category of a pandemic or could put another person’s life at serious risk [13 HEALTH \(13 43 25 84\)](#).

Hygiene precautions recommended

Educators – to document their risk management and preventative measures as part of their quality improvements during the time of the pandemic.



Educators should provide hand sanitising/washing for children and parents on arrival and departure from their service and maintain handwashing according to service policy for other times of the day.

Maintain a regular cleaning routine of the environment and equipment.

Educators will complete recommended training by government on infection control available at the time.

Educators and families must communicate illness clearly before providing care as part of infection control. Parents should call the educator or service prior to taking the child into care and discuss any symptoms that may have occurred since last in care. Parents are not to take children into care with any symptoms of illness during this time.

Children must not enter the care environment if they are symptomatic including, thick runny nose, temperature, cough, wheezing, generally unwell.

Children will not be able to return to care until: cleared by a doctor with a **clearance letter and a negative covid result if advised to have one (a clearance is different to a doctor's certificate, which dates when they are not able to attend care) and symptoms have stopped.**

A clearance letter must state that the child is not contagious and is able to return to childcare with a date .... **the child is still not to attend childcare if they have symptoms or signs of illness.** If a child returns to care and is, still symptomatic the child will need to be collected urgently. Government guideline is "if you are unwell you must stay at home" will be followed.

If a child requires paracetamol or cough medicines for a temperature or cold/flu symptoms the child is unwell and is not able to attend care. We ask that parents do not medicate children prior to care for temperatures or cold/flu symptoms as this masks the child's true symptoms. The aim is for children who are not well to stay home. There is responsibility of families to follow these guidelines during a pandemic period.

Educators will not be able to provide care if they or a member of the home are symptomatic a clearance will be required and for symptoms to have ceased. Negative covid result to be supplied if directed by doctor or health department.

Families – if a child or family member in the family home is positive or unwell they must not attend the family day care home even to drop off or collect children.

Parents must be responsible and communicate these issues with the service and contact the health department on [13 HEALTH \(13 43 25 84\)](tel:13432584).

If there is a confirmed case of the virus, the service must be informed and the Health Department will guide the steps to be followed.

Directions from the health department to self-isolate due to tracing requirements or contact must be followed.

If the Health department closes a family day care educator service the families will be advised. The closure period will be directed by the Health Department

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