

Dear Providers and Services,

This is an update in relation to the COVID-19 (previously referred to as Coronavirus). In particular, this advice adds requirements for children or staff who have been in the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

While only a small number of COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in New South Wales with no community transmission, the Department continues to work closely with NSW Ministry of Health to monitor international developments.

With numbers of confirmed COVID-19 cases increasing overseas and community concerns about the possible development of an international pandemic, the Prime Minister announced the Australian Government's Emergency Response Plan.

Effective 5 March 2020 the Federal Government has issued a travel ban on foreigners coming to Australia from the Republic of Korea (South Korea). Only Australian citizens and permanent residents coming from Iran will be allowed entry to Australia and from 1 March are required to self-isolate for a period of 14 days after departing Iran consistent with the restrictions for those entering from China. Additionally, Australians have been advised NOT to travel to South Korea.

Advice for services, parents and carers

The updated advice from the NSW Government for parents, services and affected staff is:

- Any student or staff member who has been in, or transited through, mainland China since 1 February, Iran since 1 March or the Republic of Korea (South Korea) since 5 March, is excluded from work, school or child care services for 14 days from the date they left mainland China or Iran (as the COVID-19 incubation period can be as long as two weeks).
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.

The NSW Ministry of Health has processes to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. Advice about not attending early childhood and child care services would be provided to these close contacts by the Ministry of Health.

In accordance with normal protocols staff and children who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve.

As per the National Law and Regulations governing all early childhood education and care services, you must report outbreaks of infectious disease to:

- Your local Public Health Unit on 1300 066 055
- The NSW Regulatory Authority - for reporting requirements visit the [NSW Department of Education website](#) or on 1800 619 113 (toll free)

COVID-19 and excursions

Based on advice from NSW Ministry of Health we advise from 5 March 2020, early childhood education and care services should not visit aged care facilities until further notice to minimise the spread of respiratory infections, such as influenza and other respiratory viruses.

Further information on COVID-19 is also available from [NSW Health](#).

We appreciate the complexity that changes in advice can have in the management of your early childhood education and care services and thank you for your leadership at this difficult time.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep you up to date on this matter.

Practising Good Hygiene

Maintaining good hygiene standards is an important way to reduce the risk of acquiring and spreading respiratory infections.

Early childhood education and care services are reminded to provide appropriate handwashing soap as [hand washing](#) is the single most effective way to reduce the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease.

[Health and hygiene support information](#) including fact sheets and posters are available to help promote personal hygiene practices within our early childhood education and care services from NSW Health.



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