

5 August 2022



Dear Families,

## **RE: ATTENDING GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION & CARE SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - UPDATE**

At Glenelg Shire Council, we take seriously the health and wellbeing of our staff and families, and we are continually reviewing the way we provide education and care to ensure that health risks are minimised as much as possible. One of the most important things we can do to slow the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) in our community is to stay at home when we are unwell, even when we have the mildest of symptoms.

To assist with eliminating the spread your child will only be permitted entry to our Kindergarten and Long Day Care building's during this period, if you understand and abide by the conditions set out below on a continued basis. Any breach, may see that your child cannot attend and could have serious consequences to the other families and staff in attendance, including a shut-down of the service.

1. I agree that my child cannot attend even with the mildest of symptoms. These include symptoms consistent with Covid-19, mild cold symptoms, fever or chills or acute respiratory infection (e.g., cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose or loss of sense of smell). In certain circumstances headache, muscle soreness, stuffy nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may also be considered symptoms.
2. If your child has signs of coronavirus (COVID-19), you should take your child to get tested.
3. **Your child can only return to education and care when they are completely symptom free.** A medical certificate is not required, however may be helpful in the following circumstances:
  - Children with persistent symptoms due to underlying conditions such as hay fever or asthma whose symptoms are clearly typical of their condition can continue to attend ECEC. They should be tested for COVID-19 if they develop symptoms that are different to or worse than their usual symptoms. Please provide a copy of the doctor's letter to the service stating that your child is fit to attend education and care along with the symptoms and treatment plan for your child's hay fever, asthma diagnosis or other circumstance.
  - Younger children may have prolonged post viral symptoms such as a runny nose or cough. Where slight symptoms persist Council will require a medical certificate to confirm the child is otherwise well or has recovered from their acute illness. For information on the minimum period's children need to stay at home for other conditions, refer to the Department of Health school exclusion table. <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>

4. I agree to staff taking temperature checks if my child appears unwell. If a temperature of 37.5 degrees or above is recorded I will arrange for my child to be collected as soon as possible. I agree that my child will be sent home if they look like they are developing an illness or cold during a session.

Please note: Where a staff member contacts a parent, guardian or nominee requesting their child is collected due to illness we ask that families ensure their child/ren are collected as soon as possible.

5. Panadol, Nurofen or other temperature reducing medication will not be administered at the service. If families choose to administer these types of medications prior to the session, please advise staff in writing the reason that it was administered. If it was for any potential COVID related symptom your child will not be able to attend care on that day.
6. **Confirmed COVID-19 cases are required to notify the service that they are a positive case. Families are required to notify the service when a child tests positive to COVID-19.**

We also ask families to advise the service if your child is attending as a close contact of a confirmed COVID -19 case.

The children's services team will notify families via Xap email when a child or staff member have (or multiple children or staff members) returned a positive COVID-19 test result and had attended the service. The email will include dates of attendance and affected program / room. The email will ask families to monitor for symptoms and if symptomatic test and if positive isolate for 7 days.

Household contacts of a COVID-19 case will no longer need to quarantine, provided they:

- undertake 5 RATs on days attending the service for one week
- wear face masks when indoors while attending the service unless they have a valid exemption; young children under 8 years are exempt from having to wear a mask.
- In exceptional circumstances the Department of Health may determine that contacts in significant early childhood education and care outbreaks are still required to quarantine for seven days. In this scenario, children will be notified directly of any additional quarantine arrangements.

7. I agree to maintain social distancing requirements of 1.5 metres when interacting with staff, parents and other children at the service.
8. I agree to follow the state government directions relating to face masks when accessing any education and care service. We strongly recommend parents/carers and children aged 8 years and older wear a well-fitted mask while indoors at our services, from now to the end of winter as per Department of Education and Training advice. ***(Please note masks for staff in ECEC services are not recommended in circumstances where staff are actively teaching and clear enunciation or visibility of the mouth is essential)***

If any points in the above change due to new regulatory or governing body recommendations, a new letter of agreement may be distributed.

If you have previously signed and returned the agreement you do not need to resign and return this letter. Your prior acceptance is acknowledgement that you continue to understand these conditions. Should you have any concerns with these arrangements you are encouraged to contact us.

Kind regards,  
Miryam Franjic  
Children's Services Manager

Please return by your child's next booked session

I agree to all the points in the letter titled 'ATTENDING GLENELG SHIRE COUNCIL SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC' and understand that my child cannot attend until this letter has been signed and returned and that my child's continued attendance relies upon this agreement.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's name/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's/Guardian's signature/s \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If I am unable to sign and return the letter prior to my child's first session. I am in agreement with a Glenelg Shire representative contacting me by phone or e-mail to confirm my agreement with the letter content.