



## BRISBANIA BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CHILD CARE INC.

### HEALTH

**Title: COVID -19**

**Status: Current**

**Date of Origin: March 2020**

**Policy No: P28 - B**

**Last Reviewed: August 2024**

#### **OUTCOME:**

Brisbania Before, After School and Vacation Care centre, will maintain a healthy and hygienic environment that promotes the health of the children, educators and parents using our service. Policy Statement To ensure all employees and families implement appropriate risk management procedures to prevent the spread of coronavirus or reduce the potential for the illness to spread.

#### **PROCEDURE**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) can cause illnesses similar to the common cold, but it can also cause more serious respiratory diseases. Most people displaying symptoms such as fever, cough, sore throat, tiredness, or shortness of breath are likely suffering with a cold or other respiratory illness—not coronavirus. However, the threats posed by the virus mean serious steps must be taken to stop the spread of the disease. As outlined in our Managing Infectious Diseases Policy, the Approved Provider, OOSH Administrator/Nominated Supervisor, educators and staff always implement strict hygiene and infection control procedures to prevent or minimise the spread of contagious illnesses. Hygiene measures and exclusion principles outlined in these policies continue to apply, and will be informed by current guidance on coronavirus issued by relevant Commonwealth and State/Territory Governments including:

- Federal Department of Health coronavirus health alerts which are updated daily.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

- NSW Education Departments which may issue coronavirus updates directly to service providers. Latest updates and resources can also be reviewed online.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

- ‘Isolation guidance’

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-isolation-guidance>

- ‘Home isolation guidance when unwell (suspected or confirmed cases)’

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-home-isolation>



- ‘Coronavirus what you need to know’

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-what-you-need-to-know>

- ‘Information on the use of surgical masks’

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-on-the-use-of-surgical-masks>

- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Principles for COVID-19

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/environmental-cleaning-and-disinfection-principles-for-covid-19.pdf>

- COVID-19-Frequently Asked Questions

[https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions\\_1.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/03/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions_1.pdf)

- Information on social distancing

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-on-social-distancing>

- ‘Information for employers’ which covers when staff cannot go to work, what to tell staff, cleaning precautions and how to help prevent spread of Coronavirus.

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-employers>

If in doubt about current coronavirus guidance, the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor will contact the Federal coronavirus hotline on 1800 020 080 .

### **What must employees and families do?**

#### **Comply with government guidance**

The Approved Provider, employees and volunteers and families must:

- comply with guidance issued by Government agencies, including in relation to attendance, quarantine, and self-isolation.

This includes:

- ensuring they/a child/a family member comply with isolation requirements and stay home for 14 days where required e.g.: arriving in Australia from overseas or close contact with someone who has the virus
- ensuring they/a child/a family member stays at home if unwell.
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- **seek medical attention** if they develop a fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath within 14 days of arriving in Australia or last contact with a confirmed case. Call ahead before visiting the doctor/hospital to advise them of your symptoms and wear a surgical mask when visiting the medical facility.
- **advise the service** if they develop symptoms of the virus or are confirmed to have the virus while in isolation. This is particularly important if they have been at the service before isolation
- **provide written clearance** from a doctor after a period of isolation or quarantine confirming they/child/family member are not contagious and may return to the service. Employees, volunteers, and families must also comply with any isolation/exclusion periods in relation to coronavirus implemented by the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor including periods which exceed government requirements.
- **The Approved Provider is encouraged to review their own COVID-19 vaccination related policies, procedures, work health and safety obligations and risk management strategies.**

**Employees, volunteers, and families** must also comply with any isolation/exclusion periods in relation to coronavirus implemented by the Approved Provider or Nominated Supervisor including periods which exceed government requirements.

Implement effective hygiene process the coronavirus is most likely to spread from person-to-person through:

- direct close contact with a person while they are infectious
- close contact with a person with a confirmed infection who coughs or sneezes
- touching objects or surfaces like door handles or tables contaminated from a cough or sneeze from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

**Employees** will ensure they continue to implement hygiene processes outlined in the Health, Hygiene and Safe Food Policy to ensure high standards of hygiene and infection control always. This includes ensuring they and where relevant children:

- wash hands frequently with soap and water including before and after eating or handling food, going to the toilet, changing a nappy, handling play dough, using gloves, and after wiping or touching nose and cleaning up spills of body fluids
- cough and sneeze into their inner elbow or use a tissue to cover their mouth and nose and placing tissues in the bin immediately after use If using alcohol-based hand sanitiser in place of soap it will contain 60-80% alcohol.



In addition, the Nominated Supervisor will ensure cleaning requirements completed more frequently than usual.

Cleaning staff, including contracted cleaning staff, will implement the procedures outlined in the 'Information for employers' and Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Principles for COVID-19 Information Sheets including:

- wearing gloves and using alcohol-based hand sanitiser before and after wearing gloves
- wearing surgical masks and eye protection if person with the virus or in isolation has been in the area being cleaned or there are spills of body fluids which could be infected with the virus
- disinfecting surfaces with an anti-viral disinfectant after cleaning with detergent and water.

The Nominated Supervisor will ensure hand hygiene posters are displayed in areas which can easily be seen by families, including the front entrance, and require all employees to use hand sanitiser provided at service entrances.

Information and notification requirements The Nominated Supervisor will:

- report instances of (suspected) coronavirus to the local state/territory health department
- comply with notification requirements for serious incidents which include: o any incident involving serious illness of a child at the service where the child attended, or should have attended, a hospital o any emergency where emergency services attended i.e. there was an imminent or severe risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of a person at the service
- comply with notification requirements for closures by notifying the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours if directed to close or close voluntarily because of coronavirus
- apply for waivers from ratio and qualification requirements if required where staff are required to self-isolate
- provide families with current information about the coronavirus including current Information Sheets.

### **Interactions with Children**

- Where appropriate, educators will speak with children about the coronavirus in ways that do not alarm them or cause unnecessary fear or distress. Educators may, for example, discuss with children their feelings in relation to the virus, remind children that the risk of catching the illness is very low, review hygiene measures they can take to reduce the risk of infection, discuss some of the good things happening in the world, or implement other strategies outlined in our Interactions with



Children Policy. Educators will be careful not to speak to others in an alarmist way about the coronavirus if children are present or within hearing.

### **Excursions**

- To further protect the service and local communities, the Nominated Supervisor and educators will ensure excursions which may expose children, staff or vulnerable community members, including those in aged care facilities, to higher risks of contracting coronavirus do not occur while coronavirus infection control measures are in place.

### **Staff Entitlements in relation to coronavirus:**

- Permanent employees are entitled to paid sick leave if they have symptoms and need to be tested for the Virus. They must not return to their place of work until they have undergone Covid -19 testing and a negative result.
- Permanent employees are entitled to paid sick leave if they're ill with coronavirus. Employees must provide a medical certificate confirming they have the virus. Permanent employees who need to look after a family member or someone in their household who's sick with the virus are also entitled to paid carer's leave, or unpaid carer's leave if they have no paid sick or carer's leave left. Permanent employees who want to stay at home as a precaution against exposure to Coronavirus must apply for unpaid leave.

### **Responsibilities of Parents**

- comply with guidance issued by Government agencies, including in relation to attendance, quarantine and self-isolation. This includes:
  - o ensuring they/a child/a family member comply with isolation requirements and stay home for 14 days where required e.g. arriving in Australia from overseas or close contact with someone who has the virus
  - o ensuring they/a child/a family member stays at home if unwell
- seek medical attention if they develop a fever, cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath within 14 days of arriving in Australia or last contact with a confirmed case. Call ahead before visiting the doctor/hospital to advise them of your symptoms, and wear a surgical mask when visiting the medical facility
- advise the service if they develop symptoms of the virus or are confirmed to have the virus while in isolation. This is particularly important if they have been at the service before isolation
- provide written clearance from a doctor after a period of isolation or quarantine confirming they/child/family member are not contagious and may return to the service.



Document Author/Date:	Nominated Supervisor: Caitlin Richards <i>Childcare desktop</i>
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