

National Quality Standards

QA1: 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 1.3.2, 1.3.3
 QA2: 2.1.2, 2.1.3, 2.2.1, 2.2.2
 QA3: 3.1.2
 QA4: 4.1.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.2
 QA5: 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.2.1
 QA6: 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.2.1, 6.2.2, 6.2.3
 QA7: 7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.2.1, 7.2.2,

Early Years Learning Framework

Children have a strong sense of identity
 Children are connected with and contribute to their world
 Children have a strong sense of wellbeing
 Children are confident and involved learners
 Children are effective communicators

Montessori Philosophy

Practical Life studies: scope and sequence for the everyday routines and practices: care of self, and care of the environment

Southbank Montessori COVIDSafe Plan

The health, safety and wellbeing of children, teachers and their families is always extremely important for the service, especially under extraordinary circumstances as we are now facing a global pandemic. Children are entitled to an education and Early Childcare Early Centres are essential and should remain open wherever possible to maximise their wide-ranging benefits for children. Southbank Montessori CovidSafe Plan was developed to provide a safe environment for children, staff, families and wider community outside the service with a combination of COVIDSafe behaviours preventing the spread of the virus and a detailed action plan to respond accordingly to the possibility of infection in the service.

Infection Prevention and Control

Keeping children safe

Hygiene Practices

- **Intensify hand-washing practices**
 1. on arrival
 2. before entering the classroom
 3. before morning tea
 4. after work cycle
 5. before entering the classroom after outdoor play
 6. before lunch
 7. before afternoon tea
 8. when returning to the classroom after outdoor afternoon play
 9. Before leaving the centre
- **Introduce COVIDSafe education program**
 1. COVIDSafe posters displayed in the classroom, outdoor area and foyer
 2. COVIDSafe education during morning line time to instruct children on: blowing nose, coughing, washing hands procedures, social distancing
 3. Introduce non-contact greetings

Managing Illness and Sickness

- **Children with COVID-19 symptoms attending the service:**
 1. To be isolated from the rest of the group.
 2. Parents will be contacted immediately and advised to collect the child and seek for medical assistance.

IMPORTANT:

Parents must follow Health Department guidelines including self-quarantine during infectious period or until receiving a negative result for COVID-19
 A child with COVID-19 can return to the childcare service once they are released from isolation by Public Health Operations.

Keeping staff safe

Hygiene Practices

- **Intensify hand-washing/sanitising practices**
 1. on arrival
 2. before entering the classroom
 3. before serving morning tea
 4. after work cycle
 5. before entering the classroom after outdoor play
 6. before meals
 7. before serving afternoon tea
 8. when returning to the classroom after outdoor afternoon play
 9. Before leaving the centre
 10. Use of hand sanitiser as many times as needed
- **Mandatory Immunisation Requirements**
 1. All staff, volunteers and people regularly serving the centre must be fully immunised for COVID-19, including booster dose.
- **Mandatory use of masks**
 1. Masks are mandatory in all premisses in the service including carpark.
 2. Classroom staff may remove their masks while teaching.

Managing Illness and Sickness

- **Staff presenting with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend the centre**
 1. Staff who are considered suspected or symptomatic cases with Covid-19 must follow the guidelines in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and Sites. Staff must present with negative result for COVID-19 before returning to the service, following Health Department advice and guidelines including self-quarantine during infectious period.
A staff member with COVID-19 can return to the service once released from isolation by Public Health Operations, presenting no symptoms.

Keeping Families Safe

Hygiene Practices

- **Intensify hand-washing/sanitising practices**
 1. Sanitising hands before entering the centre
 2. Sanitising hands before entering the classroom
 3. Sanitising hands before leaving the centre
- **Mandatory use of masks**
 1. Masks are mandatory in all premisses in the service including carpark.
- **Signing children in/out**
 1. Families should use QR code signing system to sign children in and out to avoid contact with the screen.

Managing Illness and Sickness

- **Families presenting with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend the centre**
 1. Parents who are considered suspected or symptomatic cases with Covid-19 must follow the guidelines in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and Sites including self-quarantine during infectious period.
 2. In case of a positive result parents must inform the centre and follow Health Department Procedures.

Keeping the Service Safe

Hygiene Practices and Prevention

- Intensify hand-washing/sanitising practices
- Distribute hand sanitising stations across the building
- Schedule routinely cleaning for door handles and other surfaces in the classroom and play areas, kitchen, staff room and foyer including keypad to access the centre and sign in/out tablets.
- Educate children, staff and families about Hygiene Practices and Prevention of infection.
- **Mandatory Immunisation Requirements**
 1. All staff, volunteers and people regularly serving the centre must be fully immunised for COVID-19, including booster dose.
- **Mandatory use of masks**
 1. Masks are mandatory in all premisses in the service including carpark.

Educating Children - Introduce COVIDSafe education program

1. COVIDSafe posters displayed in the classroom, outdoor area and foyer
2. COVIDSafe education during morning line time to instruct children on: blowing nose, coughing, washing hands procedures, social distancing
3. Introduce non-contact greetings

Managing Illness and Sickness in children, families and staff

- **Staff, Children and Families presenting with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend the centre**
 1. Staff, Children and Families members who are considered suspected or symptomatic cases with Covid-19 must follow the guidelines in the Testing Requirements for Contacts and Exposed Persons and Sites.
 2. The centre must be informed in case of a positive result for COVID-19 to take appropriate measures.
 3. In case of a positive result parents and staff members must follow Health Department Procedures.

Supporting Families

1. Provide families with COVID-19 novelty information and updates
2. Facilitate the access to support available for families affected by COVID-19: Gap fee waiving, Allowable absences and other general support offered to the early childhood education and care sector families.

Managing cases

New close contact definitions for school and childcare settings Friday, 28 January 2022

Protocols for Children, Families, Staff Members

Positive case

- Isolate for seven days from the day of the positive test;
- if no symptoms at day seven, can leave isolation; or
- if symptomatic after seven days, remain in isolation until symptoms have cleared.

Asymptomatic one-on-one contact

- isolate for seven days;
- if no symptoms at day seven and a negative rapid antigen test (RAT) result is recorded, you can leave isolation; or
- if any symptoms develop, test and follow protocols for 'school-based close contacts who become symptomatic'.

Asymptomatic classroom or workplace contacts (teacher, education assistant):

- take a RAT test daily for 7 days;
- isolate when not at work;
- work in a surgical mask; and
- travel alone to work if possible.

School or early childhood education based close contacts who become symptomatic - remain in isolation and get tested by RAT or PCR test:

- If positive - follow the guidance for a 'positive case' or;
- if negative, repeat the test 24 hours later. If again negative, follow the appropriate asymptomatic contact protocol (as above).
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Symptomatic but not a school or early childhood education based close contact:

- A PCR test is preferred while laboratory capacity allows, otherwise complete a RAT test.
- if positive - follow protocol for positive case; or
- If negative by a RAT test - isolate for 24 hours, then retake a RAT test. If the second RAT test returns a negative result, there is no requirement to isolate.

The new protocols will only take effect when WA reaches a very high caseload environment.

Protocols for the Service

Positive case identified at the service

- If a COVID-19 case has been identified at your service, the Health Department will contact the centre directly. Centre will provide the Health Department with a spreadsheet with Contact Tracing details.
- The Health Department will inform the service if there are persons connected with your service who are required to be tested, whether that is children, staff or families. If there is the need for some people to quarantine and test.
- Centre will follow New close contact definitions for school and childcare settings protocols and guidelines.

The service may need to close for a short period of time due to staffing shortages, or for cleaning. These may be full or partial closures depending on the spread.

Notifying the Regulatory Authority

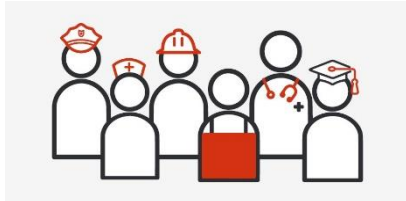
- In the event of COVID-19 case numbers rising in the community and therefore potentially in the service, the centre will need to notify the Education and Care Regulatory Unit (ECRU) as required under Regulation 175 including any circumstance that poses a risk to the health, safety and wellbeing of the children, temporary closures and / or a reduction in the number of children attending the service.

Infection prevention and control advice for environmental cleaning of a site following COVID-19 exposure:

- Centre will follow Western Australia Department of Health guidelines on infection prevention and control.
- Frequently touched surfaces have a higher risk of being contaminated and are therefore a potential source of transmission. Attention will be paid to shared workspaces, restrooms, staff room, office, lift buttons, horizontal surfaces such as tables, chairs and other frequently touched surfaces, classroom materials including furniture. Computers, tablets and other electronic devices.

Critical worker definitions and protocols for very high caseload environment

The definition of a critical worker has been released for when Western Australia enters into a very high caseload environment and new testing and isolating protocols take effect.



This definition is vital to maintaining critical services and avoiding catastrophic losses, such as loss of life, ongoing access to care and essential goods, and workplace safety.

It will only take effect when WA reaches a very high caseload environment, subject to the latest health advice.

The definition of a critical worker in WA is someone whose role cannot be undertaken at home who:

Performs a role that is critical to the COVID-19 response, or continuation of critical services that prevent significant harm (e.g. loss of life, catastrophic impacts to safety or welfare, lack of access to essential goods) to an individual or the community. Performs a role that is necessary for the safe continuation of services and/or has specialist skills in one of the following industries:

- Transport, freight and logistics, including public transport;
- Food, beverage and pharmaceutical manufacturing, supply and retail (e.g. supermarkets, grocery stores and pharmacies);
- Petrol stations and truck stops;
- Agriculture (for the purpose of food supply and biosecurity);
- Critical resources including mining, power, utilities and waste management services;
- Building and construction;
- Corrective and judicial services;
- Police and emergency services;
- Schools (K-12) and childcare (specific protocols will be in place for these particular settings);
- Health care services;
- Social assistance and residential care;
- Veterinary services; and
- Funeral, crematorium and cemetery services.

These critical workers will be required to follow the new testing and isolating protocols if they are a close contact:

- If symptomatic, follow symptomatic close contact rules
- If **asymptomatic**, and you are required to work for continuity of operations, you must have a negative RAT daily
- When working you must work with a surgical mask, use other PPE where possible, and if possible, travel alone
- When outside of work, you must self-isolate
- If a RAT is positive, you must self-isolate for 7 days.
- If symptoms ever develop, you must follow symptomatic close contact rules.