

**From:** Department of Education and Training  
**To:** [Kennedy, Heather J](#)  
**Subject:** Coronavirus (COVID-19): update for early childhood education services, including learning from home  
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Wednesday 25 March 2020

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): updated advice

### For early childhood education services, learning from home and continuation of funding

Dear colleagues,

Thank you all again for the support you are providing children and their families in these very challenging circumstances.

As advised, early childhood education and care services in Victoria may continue to operate at this time, in line with the most recent advice from the Victorian Chief Health Officer. These arrangements are subject to change, and we will advise you of any changes as quickly as possible.

If you are not doing so already, please share these emails with teachers, educators and staff. You can also encourage them to [subscribe](#) at the bottom of this email.

The information below reiterates advice previously provided to services and providers via these email updates.

### Continuation of funding

Kindergarten services will continue to receive all normal Victorian Government kindergarten funding. This includes any services that close due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Service providers are asked to complete their Annual Confirmation and submit Early Start Kindergarten enrolments through the Kindergarten Information Management system as soon as possible.

### Closures

If you believe a child or staff member at your service has a confirmed case of coronavirus (COVID-19) or is in close contact to someone who does, you should seek advice from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) on 1300 651 160. You also need to lodge a notification with our Quality Assessment and Regulation Division (QARD) if any child or staff member is confirmed as a case of coronavirus (COVID-19) or if you decide to close your service.

### Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice line

Our dedicated coronavirus (COVID-19) phone advice line for early childhood staff is available during business hours on 1800 338 663.

### Learning from Home

Last week, we launched a [new website](#) to help support children's learning and development in the event their service is closed. The [Learning from Home](#) website includes advice for early childhood services on

how they can ensure learning continuity for children during disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19).

## Out of school hours care

We appreciate that the announcement to bring forward school holidays for government schools has created additional pressure for the Out of School Hours Care (OHSC) sector. A sincere thank you to the OHSC sector for your efforts to work with schools to offer holiday programs early, where required and possible.

## Commonwealth funding arrangements

Thank you for sharing your feedback on the current operating context. We will continue to raise the concerns you have shared with the Commonwealth Government, including the urgent need for clarity about the support they will offer to ensure the viability of Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) services. We appreciate that this is an issue of real concern in the sector.

## More information

For the latest advice and information on coronavirus (COVID-19) for early childhood education and care services, refer to our [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) web page](#).

For advice on early childhood regulatory matters, contact QARD on 1300 307 415.

### **Kim Little**

Deputy Secretary

Early Childhood Education

The Department acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional custodians of the land and acknowledges and pays respect to their elders, past and present.



This information is for the early childhood sector. We encourage you to forward this email to your team members or have them [subscribe](#) to these updates. Click [here to unsubscribe](#).