

# RUTHERGLEN KINDERGARTEN REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF COVID- 19 POLICY

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## PURPOSE

A variety of strategies are used to support physical distancing and good hygiene practices to reduce the risk of coronavirus (COVID-19) transmission within the practical limitations of an early learning environment at Rutherglen Kindergarten.

## POLICY STATEMENT

### 1. VALUES

Rutherglen Kindergarten is committed to:

- providing a safe and healthy environment for all children, staff and any other persons attending the service
- responding to the needs of the child or adult who presents with symptoms of an infectious disease or infestation while attending the service
- complying with current exclusion schedules and guidelines set by the Department of Health
- providing up-to-date information and resources for families and staff regarding protection of all children from COVID 19 transmission.

### 2. SCOPE

This policy applies to the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Certified Supervisor, educators, staff, students on placement, volunteers, parents/guardians, children and others attending the programs and activities of Rutherglen Kindergarten.

### 3. SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

#### Sources

- Dept of Health and Human Services <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/staying-safe-physical-distance-and-hygiene-coronavirus>
- Safe Work Australia <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/how-clean-and-disinfect-your-workplace-covid-19>
- Australian Education Union Covid-safe plan for cleaning in early childhood settings <https://www.aeuvic.asn.au/sites/default/files/EC%20covid%20safe%20cleaning%5B2%5D.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Guidance for Child Care Programs that remain Open <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-childcare.html>

#### Service policies

- *Hygiene Policy*
- *Dealing with Infectious Diseases Policy*

## PROCEDURES

There are a range of actions that early childhood education and care services can take to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

One way to slow the spread is physical distancing, also called social distancing. The more space between people, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

It remains critically important that adults- both staff and parents – maintain physical distancing between themselves at early childhood services.

The following information provides guidance on a range of actions we have implemented at Rutherglen Kindergarten.

### **Key Actions**

#### **Attendance on site:**

- Children, staff and family members who are not well (cough, green nose, sore throat, temperature etc.) are asked to stay at home until symptoms have gone.
- Families, staff and children who attend the Kinder when unwell will be asked to leave the service in order to look after themselves and to prevent the spread of illness
- We request that families take their child's temperature before attending Kinder if able to do so.
- Staff, children and parents should have the influenza vaccination, wherever possible.
- Children, staff, family members etc. are asked to use hand sanitiser on entering the Kinder.
- Parents/carers of children with complex medical needs (including underlying respiratory and cardiovascular conditions and those with compromised immune systems) should seek advice from the child's medical practitioner to support informed risk assessment and decision making regarding the suitability of continuing education and care at this time.
- If possible limit the number of family members picking up and dropping off your child.
- People who are in the high risk category for coronavirus (COVID-19) should not enter the Kinder, this includes:
  - Those with pre-existing medical conditions.
  - Those who have been in contact with a person known to have coronavirus (COVID-19) in the last 14 days, including in the 24 hours before the person became symptomatic.
  - Those with fever or symptoms of acute respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, shortness of breath).

#### **Hygiene:**

- Where soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitiser should be provided in every occupied room and staff and children actively encouraged to use this. Staff and children unable to use hand sanitiser should be encouraged to wash their hands more regularly.
- Tissues should be readily accessible with bins provided in each room and in outdoor areas for easy disposal.
- For the rest of Term 2 we ask that no homemade treats be brought in for sharing e.g. birthday cupcakes. If your child has a birthday and you want to do something special please speak with educators for alternative options.

#### **Cleaning:**

- Services should maintain full adherence to the NHMRC childcare cleaning guidelines (refer to attachment table on 'When to clean different surfaces), in addition:
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces at least daily (e.g. play gyms, tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, sinks).
- Wash and launder play items and toys including washable plush toys as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.
- Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used.
- Toys that children have placed in their mouths or that are otherwise contaminated by body secretions or excretions should be set aside until they are cleaned by hand by a person wearing gloves. Clean with water and detergent, rinse, sanitize with a disinfectant, rinse again, and air-dry.
- Avoid touching your face, especially the mouth, nose and eyes when cleaning.

### How to clean and disinfect:

1. Wear gloves when cleaning and disinfecting. Gloves should be discarded after each clean.
2. Thoroughly clean surfaces using detergent and water.
3. Apply disinfectant to surfaces/toys using disposable paper towel or a disposable cloth. If non-disposable cloths are used, ensure they are laundered and dried before reusing.

### Healthy Hand Hygiene Behaviour:

All children, staff, and volunteers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:

- Arrival to the facility
- Before and after preparing food or drinks
- Before and after eating or handling food, or feeding children
- Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- After coming in contact with bodily fluid
- After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
- After playing outdoors or in sand
- After handling garbage

Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty, alcohol-based hand sanitisers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.

Supervise children when they use hand sanitizer to prevent ingestion.

Assist children with handwashing, including infants who cannot wash hands alone.

After assisting children with handwashing, staff should also wash their hands.

Have [posters](#) describing handwashing steps near sinks.