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## 2.14 Coronavirus Infectious Disease Outbreak (COVID-19 Pandemic)

This Policy will be updated as recommended by the NSW Health and NSW Department of  
Education requirements

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## Aims

**Cootamundra Preschool** will pursue the following aims in relation to infectious disease outbreak and in doing so will pursue its philosophy of supporting the wellness of families, children, staff and of the outer community it serves. As such this centre will:

1. Use health practices that minimise the spread of potentially infectious diseases among children, centre staff plus any others present. Provide community related information about relevant health matters to parents.
2. Ensure at the initial enrolment/parent interview that parents are informed of the necessity for the centre to exclude child/ren presenting with symptoms will be excluded from the centre until such time as a doctor certifies that they are no longer infectious.
3. Notify the necessary public health authorities (as per the procedures below) in the event of an outbreak of vaccine preventable sickness at the centre.

## Legislative Requirements

Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011

Occupational Health & Safety Act 2000

Occupational Health & Safety Regulations 2001

Public Health Act and Regulations (NSW) 1991 plus amendments (1992)

## Who Is Affected By This Policy?

Children/parents/other family members

Staff

High school/TAFE/university students who may be undertaking practical visits

Management

Visitors

Volunteers

## Relevant Early Childhood Professional Standards

Early Childhood Code of Ethics:	1-1, II-3, II-4, VI-3,
Early Years Learning Framework:	Outcomes – 1.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 3. Principles – 1, 2, 4
Education & Care Services Australian National Regulations:	88, 89, 136, 168(2c),
National Quality Framework:	Quality areas – 2.1.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 7.1.2

## Sources/References

NSW Health: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

NSW Department of Education: [https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/latest-alerts/coronavirus---advice-for-children-s-education-and-care-services?mc\\_cid=f8a6fa1be8&mc\\_eid=f186dc7c83](https://education.nsw.gov.au/early-childhood-education/operating-an-early-childhood-education-service/latest-alerts/coronavirus---advice-for-children-s-education-and-care-services?mc_cid=f8a6fa1be8&mc_eid=f186dc7c83)

## Procedures

### 1. What is Coronavirus, COVID-19

Coronavirus is a large family of viruses. These viruses can cause illness in humans and animals. Human coronaviruses generally cause mild illness. COVID-19 is a new strain of Coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. It was first identified in Wuhan, China. It has since spread more widely, having confirmed cases as close as New South Wales.

### 2. Minimising and managing the spread of infectious disease

Coronavirus is spread from someone infected with the COVID-19 virus. Contamination is spread by droplets from coughing, sneezing, having contact with contaminated hands, surfaces or objects.

Cootamundra Preschool has implemented a COVID-19 Risk Assessment (identifying potential risks and controls to put in place). We will continue to update this risk assessments when other potential risks are identified.

Children who have symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Runny nose
- Cough
- Shortness of breath (breathing difficulty)
- Need to be given medication

**will not be able to attend Cootamundra Preschool until they have fully recovered. If your child develops any of these symptoms at preschool, parents will be contacted to collect them.**

If a child does have any of these symptoms, they will be cared for separately from the other children at the service. This will prevent any spread of all viruses.

The staff at Cootamundra Preschool will not attend work if they suffer any of these symptoms. If any staff develop symptoms while they are at the service, they will be sent home until they are fully recovered.

The symptoms of COVID-19 and Influenza are very similar, to ensure all health measures are being covered Cootamundra Preschool will ensure

Good hand hygiene practices are followed as per the recommendations from NSW Health. Washing hands with soap and water is the most effective way of reducing the spread of germs that cause respiratory disease. Alcohol-based hand sanitiser is a suitable alternative (Children will not be required to use the hand sanitiser and will be used and stored safely around children)

- Hand hygiene practices for children are incorporated on arrival, departure, before and after mealtimes, toileting and sneezing, as well as implemented in their program and routine. This means washing hands with soap and water and drying them.
- Hand hygiene for staff will be enhanced on arrival, departure, before and after mealtimes, toileting, sneezing and constantly during the day while touching other belongings.
- Staff are encouraged not to touch their face during the day unless necessary, If needed hands will be washed.
- Coughing/ sneezing hygiene techniques and unneeded face touching are taught within the program/routine and where necessary during the day with the children.
- Gloves will be worn when opening food, cleaning and where spread could be possible
- Visitors will be asked to use hand sanitiser or wash their hands with soap and water on arrival and departure of the service.
- Hand sanitiser and the bathroom will be accessible for all families/adults who come to drop or pick up a child/ren from preschool.

Daily and additional cleaning practices. Robust infection control, cleaning and routine environmental cleaning procedures are in place.

- After wiping each table of mess, a one time disposable alcohol wipe or spray disinfectant will be used for each table after meals and activities
- While the children are playing outside, the rooms, toys, toilets and taps will be sprayed with spray disinfectant, this will also be done again after the children leave the service. The Preschool will then be thoroughly cleaned by the cleaner each night.
- All toys will be sprayed with spray disinfectant prior to being put away.

Eliminate any communal sharing where possible and practical e.g., sunscreen, playdough.

- Families are asked to apply sunscreen at home before arrival.
- Families will be asked to keep their children's lunchboxes and drink bottles with their bags. No fridge option will be available, parents will be asked to use cold packs in the child's lunchbox.
- Recycled boxes and containers will be collected, but not used within a 24 hour period
- Staff will sign children in and out of the service to prevent communal touching of the pen
- Cootamundra Preschool will not be involved or in attendance of public events, celebrations or excursions, this eliminates any spread of the infection.

Most COVID-19 cases appear to be spread from people who have symptoms, a small number of people have been infectious before their symptoms develop.

The time between when a person is exposed to the virus and when symptoms first appear is typically 5-6 days but may range from 2-14 days. People who may have been in contact with a confirmed case are asked to self-isolate for 14 days.

If you have travelled to another country (been overseas) you need to self-isolate from others for 14 days from the day you return from overseas.

If you or your child/ren are being tested for COVID-19, you will need to inform the director at Cootamundra preschool as soon as possible.

### Social Distancing measures

These measures prevent close adult contact and the spread of infection where children play and learn.

- Staff will be mindful of their interactions with your children when it comes to social distancing and unneeded touching. They will practice social distancing with adults only.
- 2 families (1 adult from each family) are to come into the Preschool at one time on arrival and departure of the preschool, staying in the locker area behind the rainbow line.
- Other children/ adults are to wait outside on the bench seat provided.

### Promoting and Encouraging

- Cootamundra Preschool encourage the families, children and staff to get the annual influenza vaccine.
- Staff are encouraged to get the COVIDSAFE APP. Staff will have their phones on them during the arrival and departure of the children at preschool. We would encourage all families to download the app to assist with the spread of COVID-19 and have their phone on them during their time at preschool.
- If families or children are experiencing any symptoms, we encourage them to be tested.

## **3. Mandatory notification of infectious diseases**

If you or your child have been diagnosed with COVID-19, you will need to inform the director at Cootamundra Preschool. The Preschool director will need to inform the NSW Public Health Unit of this confirmed case, the public health unit will then be in contact with you with advice. If you have been confirmed with COVID-19, you are required to be isolated at home for 14days, monitoring your health and report any symptoms.

Cootamundra Preschool will be notified by the NSW Public Health Unit and the NSW Department of Education on what the following steps Cootamundra Preschool will have to take. This could be that Cootamundra Preschool will have to close for a period of time.

If some one has been confirmed with COVID-19 and they have been in close contact with you (close contact is someone who has been face to face for at least 15minutes or been in the same closed space for more than 2hours), they will need to tell the NSW Public Health Unit and the NSW Public Health Unit will contact and keep in touch with you. You will need to self-isolate and report any symptoms to the NSW Public Health Unit.

## 4. Closing of the Service

Cootamundra Preschool will be guided by NSW Public Health Unit and NSW Department of Education on whether the preschool will be closed due to COVID-19.

In the circumstances where the Cootamundra Preschool will need to close, all parents will be notified via phone by the director. The director will keep all families informed on the duration and when the service will reopen again through the online FlexiBuzz app used. If the Cootamundra Preschool closes under these circumstances, families will not be charged for the day's preschool is not operating.

The Director at the Cootamundra Preschool is required to notify the Regulatory Authority within 7 days under (Reg 175) of any circumstances where the service poses a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of child/ren attending the service or (Reg 88) if there is an occurrence of infectious disease at the preschool the director will notify the Regulatory Authority as soon as practicable.

Regulatory Authority – ACEQCA: Phone: 1800422327, [www.aceqca.gov.au](http://www.aceqca.gov.au)

**The Director will ensure that this policy is maintained and implemented at all times.**