

United Workers Union 6 Point Plan to stop the spread of COVID-19

Reviewed by members and updated 9 September 2021

Staff, families and the community must have confidence that all centres are safe, and measures are in place to actively limit the spread of COVID-19. The early childhood education and care sector needs a clear plan to stay healthy and safe at work whenever there is transmission in the community.

POINT ONE: PRE-ENTRY SCREENING

- **Drop offs and pickups** must be conducted outside in a socially distanced manner by one parent or carer only. If this is not possible families may only enter the foyer.
- **Record of authorised/permitted worker permits** must be maintained by the employer. This must include a list of any children who attend more than one service. Educators will be provided with time to familiarise themselves with these records.
- **Screening requirements (e.g. temperature checks etc)** will be based on a clear checklist developed by the centre team.

POINT TWO: MASKS AND OTHER PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

- **Necessary PPE** will be provided by the employer. There must be enough PPE on site for the next 48 hours.
- **Masks must be worn in indoor and outdoor settings** and may only be removed when interacting with children or families who need to see the mouth for communication purposes. Educators wearing masks must be provided with paid time to take a break when required.
- **Family and essential visitor PPE.** The employer must ensure families and essential visitors follow centre PPE requirements and relevant public health orders.

POINT THREE: TIME FOR PRECAUTIONS

- **Paid time for COVID-19 testing** will be provided to all employees where there is any policy or directive in place mandating testing.
- **Paid time for medical appointments** will be provided to all employees in relation to being vaccinated or seeking medical advice around the COVID-19 vaccine.

..... **POINT FOUR: SAFE CLEANING**

- **Cleaning throughout the day** will be carried out regularly in high-traffic and high-risk areas of the service, and of mouthed or soiled toys.
- **Professional cleaning** will be undertaken at the end of each day by a cleaning contractor.

..... **POINT FIVE: SAFE STAFFING**

- **Supporting educators to minimise exposure to COVID-19.** Employees will be supported to work from home where possible, including attending virtual staff meetings.
- **Under-the-roof ratios should not be used at all during this crisis.** There should be no mixing of children between groups and they are to be kept in normal age and class groups where possible to limit spread.
- **Sufficient numbers of staff will be rostered to undertake duties** associated with stopping the spread of COVID-19 (e.g. pre-screening entry and cleaning) in addition to meal breaks, non-contact time and other usual entitlements.

..... **POINT SIX: HYGIENE PRACTICES**

- **Centres must develop and implement hygiene plans** that balance best practice infection control and operational needs including adequate ventilation, indoor/outdoor programmes, adherence to social distancing guidelines, and handwashing.