

# Public Health (Lockdown Restrictions) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 10)

## Notifiable Instrument NI2021-590

made under the

**Public Health Act 1997, s 120 (Emergency actions and directions)**

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### 1. Name of instrument

This instrument is the *Public Health (Lockdown Restrictions) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 10)*.

### 2. Commencement

This instrument commences at 12:01am on Friday 1 October 2021.

### 3. Expiry

This instrument expires at 11:59pm on Thursday 14 October 2021.

### 4. Public Health Emergency Direction

I, Dr Vanessa Johnston, Acting Chief Health Officer, consider it necessary or desirable to alleviate the emergency declared under the *Public Health (Emergency) Declaration 2020 (No 1)* [NI2020-153] (the **declared emergency**) on 16 March 2020, to give the directions as set out in this instrument.

### 5. Revocation

This instrument revokes the *Public Health (Lockdown Restrictions) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 9)* [NI2021-555].

Dr Vanessa Johnston  
Acting Chief Health Officer  
30 September 2021



# Public Health Emergency Direction

## *Public Health Act 1997*

*Made under the Public Health Act 1997,  
section 120 (Emergency actions and directions)*

I, Dr Vanessa Johnston, Acting Chief Health Officer, consider it necessary or desirable to alleviate the emergency declared under the *Public Health (Emergency) Declaration 2020 (No 1)* [NI2020-153] (the **declared emergency**) on 16 March 2020, to give the directions as set out below. The purpose of these directions is to limit the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (**COVID-19**), caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.

In making this Direction, I have had regard to relevant human rights and I am satisfied that the limitations imposed as a result of this Direction are both demonstrably justifiable in a free and democratic society and necessary to protect the ACT community from the serious public health risk posed by COVID-19.

## PART 1 — STAY AT HOME PERIOD

### A. Directions

1. This part applies to all people in the Australian Capital Territory.
2. Subject to any other restriction or requirement in this Direction, a person must not leave their **residence** other than for one or more of the following permitted purposes:
  - a. to obtain food or other **essential goods or services**;
  - b. to obtain **essential health care**;
  - c. to undertake a COVID-19 test or receive a scheduled COVID-19 vaccination;
  - d. to engage in physical or recreational activities in an **outdoor space**:
    - i. for no more than 4 hours per day; and
    - ii. either:
      - A. on their own, or
      - B. with no more than 5 people who are members of more than one **household**, or
      - C. with any number of people from the same **household**;
  - e. to perform **essential work**;
  - f. to attend a **non-essential business, activity or undertaking** in order to undertake work in accordance with the conditions in column 2 of the Table in Attachment 2.
  - g. to donate biological material at a blood bank or other similar donation facility;

**Note:** Physical or recreational activity includes activities at outdoor sporting facilities and personal training allowed to operate in accordance with Attachment 2.



- h. for essential animal welfare purposes;  
*Example – essential animal welfare purposes may include: feeding animals that live away from a person's **residence**; volunteering for the purposes of tending to injured or orphaned wildlife; ensuring that a paddock where animals are kept remains secure.*
- i. to access care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, family violence, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition or other essential support services;
- j. to visit the **residence** of:
  - i. an **identified household group**; or
  - ii. any other person; or
- k. to leave children under the age of 18 in the care of another person if reasonable care cannot be obtained in the first person's **residence**;  
*Example – leaving a child in the care of another person so that a person can undertake essential work or obtain essential goods or services.*
- l. to attend a funeral or wedding;
- m. to attend any court or tribunal of Australia or to comply with or give effect to orders of a court or tribunal of Australia;
- n. to attend an early learning centre, childcare, family day care, or school holiday care program, to the extent care cannot reasonably be obtained in the person's **residence**;
- o. to attend a primary school, secondary schools or college, to the extent instruction or care cannot reasonably be obtained in the person's **residence**;
- p. to assist with or participate in an investigation or other action by a law enforcement authority, whether voluntarily or not;
- q. for children under 18 years who do not live in the same **household** as their parents or siblings or one of their parents or siblings—to continue existing arrangements for access to, or contact between, parents and children or siblings, other than access to or contact with person who is at high or moderate risk of serious illness from COVID-19;  
*Example of a person who is at high or moderate risk of serious illness from COVID 19 – a person over 70 years, or a person with a medical condition that makes them vulnerable to COVID-19.*
- r. to return to their principal place of **residence**, or move to a new principal place of **residence**;
- s. for law enforcement or emergency purposes;  
*Example – escaping a risk of harm related to domestic and family violence; or accessing support from a domestic and family violence support service.*
- t. to comply with or give effect to the exercise of a power or function of a government agency or entity under a law;
- u. to engage in a transaction, including to obtain goods or services, from a business, activity or undertaking permitted to operate under this Direction;
- v. to attend the premises of a business or undertaking owned, controlled or operated by the person, for any of the following reasons:



- i. for essential maintenance work or other work undertaken for the purpose of ensuring the safety of the premises;
- ii. as required or authorised by law;
- iii. for emergency purposes;

**Example:** to operate critical systems such as alarms, monitoring, cold storage, and utilities.

- iv. to accept deliveries that cannot reasonably be delayed or diverted to the person's residential premises;
- v. to provide an urgent and essential service for the administration of the business or undertaking which cannot be undertaken in their residence;

**Example:** Administering a payroll system which cannot be operated from a person's residence. To access information or documents necessary for COVID-19 related support payments.

- vi. for any other purpose permitted by this Direction;
  - w. to attend waste management and resource recovery services;
3. Any person who leaves their **residence** must practise **social distancing** while outside their **residence**, to the extent that is reasonably practicable to do so.
4. A person who leaves their **residence** for the purposes of paragraph 2(a) must minimise the time spent at the premises of an **essential business, activity or undertaking** to the extent that is reasonably practicable to do so.
5. A person who leaves their **residence** for a permitted purpose under paragraph 2 (excluding paragraphs 2(d) and 2(u)) may be accompanied by:
- a. no more than 2 members of their **household**; or
  - b. no more than 1 person who is not a member of their **household**.
6. However, a person who is a parent or guardian of more than one child in the same **household** may be accompanied by each child for a permitted purpose if:
- a. the child would otherwise be left unattended; and
  - b. it would be unsafe for the child to be left unattended.
7. Also, a person may be accompanied by more than 1 other person who is not a member of their **household** when leaving their **residence** for a permitted purpose if:
- a. the person requires physical assistance to leave their **residence**, or it is reasonably necessary for the safety of the person or the public; and
  - b. the other person is a carer or support worker for the person; and
  - c. there is no other reasonable way for a purpose under paragraph 2 to be achieved.

**Example** – a person with a disability may be accompanied by more than 1 carer or support worker.

**Note:** A person who is required to quarantine or isolate under another direction or a direction of an **authorised person**, must comply with the terms of the direction to quarantine or isolate and may not leave the premises in which they are quarantining or isolating unless permitted under the terms of those directions (see paragraph 67).



8. A person who leaves their **residence** for a permitted purpose under paragraph 2(v) must not be accompanied by more than 1 person unless there is no other reasonable way for the purpose under paragraph 2(v) to be achieved.

## PART 2 — VISITORS AT RESIDENCES

### A. Directions

9. A person must not permit more than either of the following to enter and remain at their **residence** per day:
- a. 2 people who are not ordinarily members of the same **household** as the person;
  - b. the members of the person's **identified household group**.
10. Despite paragraph 9, a person may also permit any of the following to enter and remain at their **residence**:
- a. children under 18 years entering the **residence** to continue existing arrangements for access to, or contact between, parents and children or siblings, other than access to or contact with person who is at high or moderate risk of serious illness from COVID-19;
  - b. a person entering to perform essential work;
  - c. a person entering to provide services to a person with disability to meet their support needs;
  - d. a person entering to provide assistance, care or support to another person;
  - e. a person entering to visit a terminally ill relative;
  - f. a person entering to assist another person in moving residence, where the move cannot reasonably be delayed;
  - g. a person entering for law enforcement or emergency purpose;
  - h. a person entering to comply with or give effect to the exercise of a power or function of a government agency or entity under a law;
  - i. a person entering to attend a wedding ceremony;  
**Note:** see conditions on weddings in Attachment 1, Item 6, Column 2.
  - j. a parent or guardian of more than one child and:
    - i. the child would otherwise be left unattended; and
    - ii. it would be unsafe for the child to be left unattended.

## PART 3 — FACE MASKS REQUIRED

### A. Directions

11. When outside their residence a person must at all times:
- a. carry a **face mask**; and
  - b. wear a **face mask**.



12. The requirement to carry and wear a **face mask** under paragraph 11 does not apply to:
- a. infants and children under 12 years; or  
**Note:** only children in Years 7 to 12 are required to wear a **face mask** at school.
  - b. a person who has a physical or mental health illness or condition, or disability, which makes wearing a face mask unsuitable.
13. Despite paragraph 11, a person who is required to wear a **face mask** may remove the **face mask**:
- a. if the person is consuming food, drink or medicine; or
  - b. if the person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing and visibility of the mouth is essential for communication; or
  - c. if the person is at work and the nature of the person's work or training means that wearing a **face mask** creates a risk to their health and safety; or
  - d. if it is necessary for the proper provision of the goods or service; or
  - e. if the person is asked to remove the **face mask** to ascertain identity; or  
**Examples:** a person may be asked by police to remove a face mask to ascertain identity, or when purchasing alcohol or cigarettes.
  - f. if the person is undertaking vigorous exercise outdoors; or
  - g. if the person is performing **essential work** where no other people are present in an **outdoor space**; or
  - h. if the person is performing **essential work** in an **indoor space**:
    - i. in an office where no other people are present; or
    - ii. in a seated position or standing position at a workstation in an office; and
    - iii. at least 1.5 metres from any other person;**Note:** As soon as a person is no longer alone or seated or stationary that person must wear a **face mask**.
  - i. if the person is alone or only with members of the same **household** in an **outdoor space** where no other people are present; or
  - j. if the person is in the process of getting married;
  - k. if the person is in a vehicle alone or with other members of the same **household** only;
  - l. if it is required or authorised by law; or
  - m. if it is not safe in all the circumstances; or
  - n. because of an emergency.
14. A person who removes their **face mask** in a circumstance under paragraph 13 must resume wearing the **face mask** as soon as practicable after the circumstance ends.
- Examples:** a person must resume wearing a face mask as soon as they finish eating, or receiving medical care.



## PART 4 — BUSINESSES, ACTIVITIES AND UNDERTAKINGS

### B. Directions

15. This part applies to a person who owns, controls or operates a business, activity or undertaking in the Australian Capital Territory.
16. A person may operate a business, activity or undertaking in the Australian Capital Territory only if:

- a. the business, activity or undertaking:
  - i. is an **essential business, activity or undertaking**; and
  - ii. complies with the conditions for conducting the business, activity or undertaking as specified in column 2 of Attachment 1; or
- b. the business, activity or undertaking:
  - i. is a **non-essential business, activity or undertaking**; and
  - ii. complies with the conditions for conducting the business, activity or undertaking as specified in column 2 of Attachment 2; or
- c. for any other business, activity or undertaking, the business, activity or undertaking can be operated from the person's **residence**:
  - i. without involving a **gathering** that is not otherwise permitted under this Direction; and
  - ii. with all transactions undertaken by contactless means.

**Example** – a business that is not an **essential business, activity or undertaking** or a **non-essential business, activity or undertaking** may continue to sell goods or services online or by other contactless means.

17. A person who owns, controls, or operates an **essential business, activity or undertaking** in the Australian Capital Territory must take reasonable steps to:
- a. ensure **social distancing** of people can be accommodated, implemented and monitored by employees or contractors of the business, activity or undertaking; and
  - b. ensure a **gathering** does not exceed 1 person per 4 square metres per **usable indoor space** and **usable outdoor space**, other than where the **essential business, activity or undertaking** is a **public passenger services**; and
  - c. ensure workers are wearing masks in accordance with Part 3 of this Direction; and
  - d. operate only to the extent they are not promoting or facilitating people **gathering** on or adjacent to their premises.

**Example** – tables and chairs in venues should be removed and all reasonable steps taken to direct people away from gathering to consume takeaway food or drink on or adjacent to, the relevant premise.





## PART 5 — ENTRY AND EXIT OF RESIDENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### A. Directions

18. This part applies to a person who is a **resident** of the Australian Capital Territory.
19. A **resident** who is not in the Australian Capital Territory at the commencement of this Direction may enter the Australian Capital Territory.
20. A **resident** who enters the Australian Capital Territory under paragraph 19 must comply with this Direction.
21. A **resident** may leave the Australian Capital Territory:
  - a. for a permitted purpose under paragraph 2, except for paragraph 2(d) or 2(j); or  
*Note: a person must not leave the Australian Capital Territory to exercise or visit friends.*
  - b. to return home to their principal place of residence, or move to a new principal place of **residence**, in another state or territory; or  
*Note: a person must comply with any public health directions in place in the other state or territory when in that state or territory.*
  - c. to comply with the conditions of an exemption granted under paragraph 30.
22. A **resident** who leaves the Australian Capital Territory after the commencement of this Direction must continue to abide by the requirements of this Direction when outside the Australian Capital Territory.  
*Note: a person who leaves the Australian Capital Territory will be subject to any public health directions in force in any state or territory they enter.*

## PART 6 — PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT A RESIDENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### A. Directions

23. This part applies to a person who is not a **resident** of the Australian Capital Territory.
24. A person must comply with this Direction while in the Australian Capital Territory.
25. A person who is staying at accommodation at the commencement of this Direction may continue staying at the accommodation while this Direction is in force if the accommodation service remains open.
26. If the booking period of a person staying at accommodation expires while this Direction is in force, the person must:
  - a. leave the Australian Capital Territory; or
  - b. extend the booking period at the accommodation;
  - c. find alternative accommodation.
27. A person must not enter the Australian Capital Territory unless the person is entering the Australian Capital Territory:





- a. for a permitted purpose under paragraph 2, except for paragraphs 2(d) or 2(j); or  
**Note:** a person must not enter the Australian Capital Territory to exercise or visit friends.
  - b. by road for transport or freight purposes (including furniture removalists); or
  - c. by air for the purpose of transiting to another destination, and does not leave the Canberra Airport; or
  - d. by road or air for the purpose of transiting to New South Wales by road and immediately does so; or
  - e. to go directly to stay at a **residence** in the Australian Capital Territory; or
  - f. to fulfil an obligation relating to shared parenting or child contact; or
  - g. to perform **essential work** in the Australian Capital Territory that cannot reasonably be performed from a location outside of the Australian Capital Territory.
  - h. as a passenger of an ambulance, aeromedical service or other emergency medical transport; or
  - i. in accordance with the conditions of an exemption granted under paragraph 31.
28. Any person who enters the Australian Capital Territory under paragraph 27 may leave the Australian Capital Territory for a permitted purpose under paragraph 2, except for paragraphs 2(d) or 2(j).  
**Note:** a person must not leave the Australian Capital Territory to exercise or visit friends.
29. Any person who enters the Australian Capital Territory under paragraph 27 must leave the Australian Capital Territory:
- a. if directed to leave by an **authorised person**; or
  - b. if it is necessary to do so in order to comply with the conditions of an exemption granted under paragraph 30.

## PART 7 — EXEMPTIONS

30. The Chief Health Officer may, in writing and subject to any conditions that the Chief Health Officer considers necessary, exempt a person from this Direction, or a stated requirement under this Direction, on compassionate or other grounds that the Chief Health Officer considers reasonable and appropriate.
31. If the Chief Health Officer exempts a person from this Direction, or a stated requirement under this Direction that person must comply with the conditions of the exemption.



## PART 8 — MISCELLANEOUS

### A. Directions

32. An **authorised person** may ask a person arriving at or in the Australian Capital Territory for any information necessary to determine whether the person is subject to this Direction.
33. Any person arriving at or in the Australian Capital Territory must comply with any request made under paragraph 32 by an **authorised person**.
34. An **authorised person** may direct a person who is subject to this Direction to do such things as are reasonably necessary to comply with this Direction.
35. Any person subject to this Direction must comply with any request under paragraph 34 by an **authorised person**.
36. If a person fails to comply with this Direction, an **authorised person** may direct the person to do such things as are reasonably necessary to comply with this Direction including to produce proof of identification to the **authorised person**.
37. If a person fails to comply with any direction given under paragraph 36, the **authorised person** may take all reasonable steps to enforce compliance with the direction.  
*Example – Closing a premises from which a business, activity or undertaking operates until such time as the business can demonstrate compliance with this Direction.*
38. A person must, if requested by an **authorised person**, state if they have been in a **COVID-19 affected area**.

### B. Definitions

For the purposes of this Direction:

39. **Authorised person** means an authorised person under section 121 of the *Public Health Act 1997* and includes an authorised medical officer under the *Public Health Act 1997*.
40. **Click and collect** means an arrangement where goods are purchased online or by phone, and collected using contactless means from the premises of a business, activity or undertaking, or delivered using contactless means to the purchaser.
41. **COVID-19 affected area** means an area or place identified as an affected area in a notice made under paragraph 1 of the *Public Health (COVID-19 Affected Areas) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 10)* [NI2021-424].
42. **COVID-19 safety plan** means a plan in writing that addresses how a business or undertaking will manage its operations to minimise the risks posed to any person by COVID-19 because of the operation of the business or undertaking.
43. **Essential goods or services** means goods or services obtained from an **essential business, activity or undertaking**.
44. **Essential business, activity or undertaking** means a business, activity or undertaking specified in column 1 of Attachment 1.



45. **Essential health care** means:

- a. any health services provided by a private or public hospital, community health facility or residential care facility, including by students;
- b. any health service provided by a private or public specialist;
- c. emergency and licensed non-emergency patient transport;
- d. an appointment at an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health service, confirmed in writing by the service;
- e. an appointment with a **prescribed health practitioner**, confirmed in writing by the practitioner or provider;

**Note:** An appointment with a **prescribed health practitioner** may include services provided by a registered NDIS provider under an agreed NDIS Plan. An appointment at an ancillary clinic or service may include an appointment at a rehabilitation service.

- f. a dental service provided by a dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, dental prosthetist and oral health therapist;
- g. procedures related to:
  - i. any cycle of IVF treatment for a patient; or
  - ii. any procedure required for the preservation of eggs or sperm for future IVF where required health treatment will adversely affect a person's fertility; or
- h. termination of pregnancy;
- i. drug and alcohol services; or
- j. human medical research trials.

**Note:** **essential health care** service is an **essential business, activity or undertaking** (see Attachment 1).

46. **Essential work** means work (including volunteering activities) for an **essential business, activity or undertaking** that cannot reasonably be performed from the person's **residence**.

47. **Face mask** means a mask or other covering that fits securely around the face and is designed or made to be worn over the nose and mouth to provide the wearer with protection against infection (but does not include a face shield).

**Note** – a scarf or bandana is not a face mask.

48. **Gathering**, except where otherwise provided in this Direction, means a group of 2 or more people occupying a single **usable indoor space** or **usable outdoor space** at the same time other than for the purposes of conducting an **essential business, activity or undertaking**.

49. A **household** means people who ordinarily reside at the same **residence**, including people staying at the **residence** temporarily from another state or territory.

50. **Identified household group** means one other **household** where:

- a. either the person's **household** or the other **household** is comprised of:
  - i. a person living alone; or



- ii. one parent living with children (of any age); or
  - b. the person is an intimate partner of a person from the other **household**.
- 51. **Indoor space** means an area, room or premises that is, or are, substantially enclosed by a roof and walls (of permanent solid construction and stretching from floor to ceiling), regardless of whether the roof or walls or any part of them are open or closed.
- 52. **Non-essential business, activity or undertaking** means a business, activity or undertaking specified in column 1 of Attachment 2.
- 53. **Non-essential retailer** means a business, undertaking or activity that:
  - a. is not an **essential business, activity or undertaking**; and
  - b. sells goods or supplies services.
- 54. **Non-residential premises** has the same meaning as premises in the *Public Health Act 1997* but does not include residential premises.
- 55. **Outdoor space** means a space that is not an indoor space or a part of a **residence**.
- 56. **Outdoor works** means works in a space that:
  - a. is not fully enclosed; and
  - b. is entirely separated from the occupied part of the **residence**;
  - c. has a separate access to the occupied part of the **residence**.
- 57. **Place of worship** means a building or place used for the purpose of religious worship by a congregation or religious group, whether or not the building or place is also used for counselling, social events, instruction or religious training.
- 58. **Prescribed health practitioner** means a person registered to provide any of the following services:
  - a. medical; or
  - b. medical radiation practice; or
  - c. midwifery; or
  - d. nursing; or
  - e. occupational therapy; or
  - f. optometry; or
  - g. paramedicine; or
  - h. pharmacy; or
  - i. physiotherapy; or
  - j. podiatry; or
  - k. psychology; or
  - l. allied health services practitioner;
  - m. services as a registered NDIS provider under an agreed NDIS plan.



59. **Public passenger vehicle** means a public bus, light rail vehicle, taxi, rideshare vehicle, hire car or demand responsive service vehicle as defined in the *Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Act 2001*.
60. **Residence:**
- a. means:
    - i. residential premises in the Australian Capital Territory that are used, or intended to be used as a principal place of residence, or home that a person primarily occupies on an ongoing and permanent basis; or
    - ii. the premises at which the person is staying on an ongoing basis; but
  - b. does not include a **residential aged care facility** or correctional centre, detention place or other place of custody.
61. **Resident** means a person whose principal place of **residence**, or home that the person primarily occupies on an ongoing and permanent basis, is in the Australian Capital Territory.
62. **Residential aged care facility** means a facility at which accommodation, and personal care or nursing care or both, are provided to a person in respect of whom a residential care subsidy or a flexible care subsidy is payable under the *Aged Care Act 1997* (Cwlth).
63. **Retail food services:**
- a. means a retail business which provides food and/or drink, whether pre-prepared or prepared on site, and includes cafés, canteens, restaurants and fast-food outlets;
  - b. does not include:
    - i. a café or canteen at a hospital, residential aged care facility, correctional centre or school;
    - ii. a service that provides food or drink to those experiencing homelessness.
64. **Social distancing** means remaining at least 1.5 metres from other people.
65. **Usable** for an **indoor space** or **outdoor space** means the space that people can freely move around in, but not including the following areas:
- a. stages and similar areas;
  - b. restrooms, changerooms and similar areas;
  - c. areas occupied by fixtures, fittings, and displays; and
  - d. staff only areas and areas that are closed off or not being used.



### **C. Inconsistency with other directions**

66. If there is any inconsistency between this Direction and any of the directions specified below, this Direction is to prevail to the extent of any inconsistency:
- a. the *Public Health (Restricted Activities – Gatherings, Business or Undertakings) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 4)* [NI2021-405]; and
  - b. the *Public Health (Residential Aged Care Facilities) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 4)* [NI2021-344].
67. If there is any inconsistency between this Direction and any of the directions specified below, this Direction is inoperative to the extent of any inconsistency:
- a. the *Public Health (Diagnosed People and Close Contacts) Emergency Direction 2021 (No 1)* [NI2021-421]; and
  - b. the *Public Health (Returned Travellers) Emergency Direction 2021* [NI2021-339].

**Dr Vanessa Johnston**

Acting Chief Health Officer

30 September 2021

### **Penalties**

Section 120 (4) of the *Public Health Act 1997* provides:

A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a direction under this section.

### **Maximum Penalty:**

In the case of a natural person, \$8,000 (50 penalty units).

In the case of a body corporate, \$40,500 (50 penalty units).

In the case of a utility that is a body corporate, \$1,620,000 (2000 penalty units).

**Attachment 1 – Essential business, activity or undertaking**

*Note:* This Direction imposes requirements for all **essential businesses, activities or undertakings**.

	<b>Column 1</b> <b>Essential business, activity, or undertaking</b>	<b>Column 2</b> <b>Any additional conditions (other than those outlined in the Direction)</b>
1.	Correctional centres, detention places or other places of custody	
2.	Early childhood education and care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must operate in accordance with the Health Guidelines for Schools and Early Childhood and Education Services in Attachment 3.</li><li>• Staff are permitted to attend the premises.</li><li>• Children may attend where it is unreasonable for the child to receive care from home.  Example: A parent who is required to undertake work from home and cannot reasonably provide care while working.</li></ul>
3.	Schools (Preschool to year 12) and out of school hours care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must operate in accordance with the Health Guidelines for Schools and Early Childhood and Education Services in Attachment 3.</li><li>• Staff are permitted to attend the premises.</li><li>• Children from year groups which are not yet permitted to return to on campus learning under the Health Guidelines may attend if:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ their parents or carers are required to work and cannot provide care for their children as a result of those work obligations; or</li><li>○ the children are vulnerable children.</li></ul></li><li>• For essential activities that must be undertaken under supervision (eg Year 12 critical examinations).</li></ul>





4.	Higher education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remote learning only, except where essential instruction or learning activities cannot be adequately conducted remotely.</li></ul>
5.	<b>Places of worship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Live streaming or broadcast of a service may be conducted with the person conducting the service, a camera operator, and an Auslan interpreter.</li><li>Time critical ceremonies and rites may occur with no more than 10 attendees excluding those conducting the ceremonies.</li></ul> <p><i>Note: This does not include general weekly or routine services which would ordinarily be conducted and should be occurring by live streaming or broadcasting.</i></p>
6.	Wedding ceremonies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maximum of 10 attendees, including the couple and witnesses, but excluding the celebrant and one photographer.</li><li>A wedding ceremony may occur at a residence, but only if—<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>the ceremony is held outside; and</li><li>attendees remain outside other than as reasonably necessary.</li></ul><p><i>Example:</i> to use the facilities.</p></li><li>Any formal legal requirements that are required to be completed prior to the wedding ceremony are permitted to take place.</li><li>Wedding receptions are not permitted.</li></ul> <p><i>Example:</i> If documentation is required by law to be witnessed in person prior to a wedding ceremony taking place, then witnessing the document in person is authorised under this Direction.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> requirements in this Direction, must ensure a <b>gathering</b> does not exceed 1 person per 4 square metres.</p>
7.	Funerals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Maximum of 20 attendees, excluding person or people necessary for conducting the service.</li></ul> <p><i>Note:</i> requirements in this Direction, must ensure a <b>gathering</b> does not exceed 1 person per 4 square metres.</p>



8.	Funeral homes	
9.	Mortuary services	
10.	<p>Any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. businesses whose predominant purpose is a supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger;</li><li>b. an indoor or outdoor market, but only to the extent that its predominant purpose is to sell or supply groceries or fresh food; or</li><li>c. a bottleshop; or</li><li>d. a bank or financial institution; or</li><li>e. a post office; or</li><li>f. a news agent; or</li><li>g. a pharmacy; or</li><li>h. a petrol station (including a petrol station that sells groceries); or</li><li>i. vehicle and mechanical repair services; or</li><li>j. laundry and dry cleaners; or</li><li>k. a locksmith; or</li><li>l. shops that undertake repairs of electronic devices, including mobile phones and computers; or</li><li>m. shopping precincts, but only for essential retail purposes as outlined in this Direction.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Businesses should aim to provide a <b>click and collect</b> service wherever practicable to do so.</li><li>• Businesses must take all reasonable steps to ensure that persons entering their premises are entering for essential purposes.</li><li>• Businesses must take all reasonable steps to ensure that persons entering their premises minimise the time the person spends at the premises.</li><li>• Businesses that undertake repairs of electronic devices must only operate for repair or replacement functions and normal retail operations are not permitted. Repairs should be arranged by appointment wherever possible.</li></ul>
11.	<p>Any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. hardware and building supplies; or</li><li>b. agricultural and rural supplies; or</li><li>c. a pet store; or</li><li>d. businesses that predominantly sell essential office supplies.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trades customers are permitted to enter businesses which sell hardware and building supplies.</li><li>• For all other customers, businesses must only operate through a <b>click and collect</b> service.</li><li>• Businesses must only permit the minimum number of employees</li></ul>



		<p>necessary to be present on site to fulfil these services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>No later than one week after the commencement of this Direction, a <b>COVID-19 Safety Plan</b> must be implemented by the business, including controls to minimise or remove any physical interaction between the business operator and any delivery or collection person.</li></ul>
12.	Veterinary clinic	
13.	Provision of consular and diplomatic services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only essential and time critical services to be offered.</li></ul>
14.	Provision of court or tribunal services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must take reasonable steps to provide services remotely</li></ul>
15.	<b>Essential health care</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must take reasonable steps to provide services via telehealth or other virtual care option where possible and clinically appropriate to do so.</li></ul>
16.	Provision of urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person, animal or premises, including child protection activities	
17.	<b>Retail food services</b> , whether licensed or unlicensed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>May only provide takeaway meals or drinks, or a meal delivery service.</li><li>Must take reasonable steps to ensure people leave the premises as soon as possible after collecting takeaway meals or drinks, or meal delivery services.</li></ul>
18.	Licensed venues, but not including a strip club, brothel or escort agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>May only provide takeaway.</li><li>Nightclubs may only trade as an off licence venue.</li><li>Must take reasonable steps to ensure people are leaving the premises as soon as possible after collecting takeaway meals or drinks, or meal delivery services.</li></ul>
19.	Hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to the extent that they provide accommodation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Not permitted to take new bookings, unless the booking is for:</li></ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. a person avoiding or escaping an emergency; or</li><li>b. a person who is performing <b>essential work</b>; or</li><li>c. a person whose <b>residence</b> is undergoing renovations, maintenance or repair in accordance with the requirements of this Direction; or</li><li>d. a person who requires any other form of emergency accommodation.</li></ul>
20.	Residential aged care facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No visitors permitted, except were approved by the <b>residential aged care facility</b> for compassionate reasons, end-of-life reasons, or for the purposes of performing <b>essential work</b> on or at the premises.</li><li>• Workers undertaking work that is not <b>essential work</b> are not permitted to enter or remain at the premises.</li></ul>
21.	Hospitals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May continue to provide <b>essential health care</b> services.</li><li>• No visitors are permitted into the health care setting, except where approved by the hospital for the following reasons:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• volunteer or paid carers to support the delivery of a health service to another person,</li><li>• for end of life reasons,</li><li>• as a support partner for birth,</li><li>• a parent to accompany a child,</li><li>• other compassionate reasons,</li><li>• for the purposes of performing <b>essential work</b> on or at the premises.</li></ul></li></ul>



<b>22.</b>	Emergency services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. the State Emergency Service;</li><li>b. fire fighting services;</li><li>c. paramedical services;</li><li>d. ambulance services;</li><li>e. air ambulance and medical retrieval services (including Snowy Hydro SouthCare);</li><li>f. police services or Protective Services Officer stationed on border duties or otherwise engaged in policing duties;</li><li>g. military and defence services deployed for activities in the Australian Capital Territory; and</li><li>h. state security or national security</li></ul>	
<b>23.</b>	Essential infrastructure and essential services without which the safety, health or welfare of the community or a section of the community would be endangered or seriously prejudiced (whether provided by a public or private undertaking), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. road repair works undertaken by the Australian Capital Territory or a contractor engaged to undertake the works on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suppliers of equipment and materials required to facilitate road repair works may provide those services.</li><li>• Services supporting ongoing provision and regulation of electricity, gas, water and sewerage. <i>Example: meter reading.</i></li></ul>
<b>24.</b>	Journalism and media services for news and other critical public communications purposes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must take reasonable steps to provide services remotely.</li></ul>



25.	Building and construction activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All construction, repair, and maintenance activities other than residential construction for individual Class 1 Buildings (see Item 26) and occupied residential apartment complexes.  <b>Note:</b> urgent repair and maintenance services may continue to operate (see Item 28).</li><li>• Building and construction activities must strictly adhere to the 'ACT Building and Construction Industry COVID-19 Requirements'.</li><li>• Manufacturing, fabrication, testing, assembly, professional regulatory, off – site administrative and equipment supply activities necessary to facilitate permitted construction activities.</li></ul>
26.	Residential construction (including renovation), repair or maintenance activities on an individual Class 1 Building as defined under the National Construction Code.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The following construction activities are permitted, subject to strict adherence to the 'ACT Building and Construction Industry COVID-19 Requirements':</li><li>• For a residence that is occupied and if works commenced on or before 12 August 2021, the works may resume provided that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ occupants remain in a separate area of the <b>residence</b> to the workers at all times and there is no contact between the workers and occupants;</li><li>○ there are no more than 2 workers inside the <b>residence</b> at any one time; and</li><li>○ there are no more than 5 workers and 1 supervisor on a site at any one time.</li></ul></li><li>• For a residence that is occupied and if works had not commenced on or before 12 August 2021, the works may commence provided:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ the works are for renovations to existing dwellings and structures;</li><li>○ any person who is residing at the <b>residence</b> moves out prior to the commencement of the works.</li></ul></li></ul>



		<p><b>Note:</b> the <b>residence</b> will become an unoccupied <b>residence</b> subject to the conditions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For <b>outdoor works</b> at an occupied <b>residence</b>, the works may be undertaken provided that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ there is no contact between the workers and occupants;</li><li>○ there are no more than 5 workers and 1 supervisor on a site at any one time.</li></ul></li><li>• For unoccupied residences:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ works may be undertaken with the lesser of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 1 person per 4 square metres across the site; or</li><li>▪ no more than 5 persons and 1 supervisor on the site at any one time.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>• Concreting work may be undertaken for any occupied and unoccupied residence with the minimum number of concreters required for work, health and safety reasons</li><li>• Manufacturing, fabrication, testing, assembly, professional regulatory, off – site administrative and equipment supply activities necessary to facilitate permitted construction activities.</li></ul>
27.	Organisations that provide urgent services necessary for the health and safety of any person, animal or premises.  <i>Example: social services and foodbanks</i>	
28.	Urgent repair and maintenance services  <i>Example: plumbing, electrical and heating repair</i>	
29.	Any activities related to the COVID-19 response (including in hotel quarantine)	
30.	Roadside assistance services	





<b>31.</b>	Government services of the Australian Capital Territory (whether provided by government or outsourced) determined to be essential by the relevant head of the government agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only workers who are determined essential by the relevant head of the government agency and cannot reasonably undertake their work remotely.</li></ul>
<b>32.</b>	Any Commonwealth agency that is based in the Australian Capital Territory (whether provided by government or outsourced) determined to be essential by the relevant head of the government agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Only workers who are determined essential by the relevant head of the government agency and cannot reasonably undertake their work remotely.</li></ul>
<b>33.</b>	Commonwealth Parliament and the Legislative Assembly	
<b>34.</b>	Waste management and resource recovery services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services (including collection, treatment and disposal services and transfer stations); and</li><li>commercial operators that provide waste management services (including trash pack operation), where services can be operated in a contactless manner.</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>35.</b>	Services related to the administration of justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must take reasonable steps to provide services remotely; but</li><li>May operate in person:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>where the services are time-critical and essential; and</li><li>where the services cannot be reasonably undertaken remotely.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>Example:</i> Legal services pertaining to a person's safety, detention or custody or child protection such as bail proceedings or emergency care proceedings. Justices of the Peace, Notary Public.</p>
<b>36.</b>	Factory or facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>May only operate to the extent that is necessary to prevent damage or loss to plant, but only those operations that are necessary to prevent that damage or loss.</li></ul>



37.	Work at an office building that is necessary for the normal operation of an <b>essential business, activity or undertaking</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other than permitted by this direction, a person is not allowed to work outside their residence unless providing an urgent and essential service which cannot be undertaken in their residence.</li><li>• Routine, non-urgent legal services do not meet the definition of an essential service.</li></ul> <p><i>Example:</i> Administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home.</p>
38.	<b>Public passenger services</b>	
39.	Air transport (including the operation of airports)	
40.	Freight services (including postal and courier services), including transport, freight or logistics driver	
41.	National Heavy Vehicle Regulator compliance activities	
42.	Blood bank or other similar donation facility	
43.	Care services for people with particular needs because of homelessness, age, infirmity, disability, illness or a chronic health condition  Disability support services  Essential services to support children and young people at risk  Crisis support services to individuals, children or families, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• victims of crime services;</li><li>• domestic violence services;</li><li>• mental health services.</li></ul>	



<b>44.</b>	Truck stops and roadhouses, but not the provision of seated dining or shower facilities to persons who are not transport, freight or logistics drivers.	
<b>45.</b>	Production and distribution of:  a. food and groceries for sale by a supermarket, butcher, fruit and vegetable store, market or fishmonger (including for sale by operators of such premises at an indoor or outdoor market); or  b. liquor for sale at a bottleshop; or  c. medical and pharmaceutical products	
<b>46.</b>	Commercial operations that supply goods or services necessary:  a. for the implementation of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19; or  b. to support any business activity that may be carried out in accordance with these directions; or  c. to support the export of goods and services from the Australian Capital Territory.	<i>Example: manufacturing of personal protective equipment or hand sanitiser, or dry cleaning services.</i>
<b>47.</b>	Primary industries only to the extent necessary to ensure adequate supply of food to, and care of, animals and maintenance of crops.	
<b>48.</b>	Manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary for or related to supporting defence or security industries.	



49.	A person who is:  a. a member of the Legislative Assembly or the Commonwealth Parliament, or a person on the staff of such a member of parliament;  b. critical to, and involved in, the COVID-19 response (including in hotel quarantine);  c. a fly in fly out worker or a drive in drive out worker who is required for industry or business continuity and maintenance of a competitive operation where the service is time-critical, who is responsible for critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to a region of, or to, the Australian Capital Territory.	
50.	Removalists for essential removals which cannot be reasonably delayed	
51.	Transport, freight or logistics driver	
52.	Professional sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No spectators permitted.</li><li>• Only professional athletes and individuals required to attend a venue to ensure the safe running of a professional sporting event.</li></ul>
53.	Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Only services related to Home Library and Mystery Box Services may operate.</li></ul>
54.	Community centre, community facility or youth centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May only host an <b>essential business, activity or undertaking</b> otherwise referred to in Attachment 1.</li></ul>
55.	Forestry industry and timber fabricators	



<b>56.</b>	Real estate services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May only operate:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to the extent already permitted under other provisions within this Direction; or</li><li>• to allow one agent to conduct property inspections provided that:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ the inspection is of a property that is for rent or sale; and</li><li>○ the inspection is undertaken by private appointment only; and</li><li>○ the inspection is conducted with either one person or more than one person if they are all from the same <b>household</b>.</li><li>○ where no other people are present at the time of the inspection, including the residents of the house.</li></ul></li><li>• to permit one person at any one time to conduct any other property inspections required by law for the sale of a property to proceed; or</li><li>• to allow one person at any one time to photograph or film a property, where there are no other persons present.</li><li>• For an unoccupied residence up to two property stylists may attend the residence at one time to style the residence prior to sale.</li></ul></li></ul>
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57.	Commercial and domestic cleaning services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• May only operate:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To provide cleaning services to an <b>essential business, activity or undertaking</b>, or a <b>non-essential business, activity or undertaking</b>.</li><li>• To provide cleaning services to shared spaces of multi-residential dwellings;</li><li>• To provide cleaning services at a residential premises where the premises is vacant , and the service is urgent or time critical.</li><li>• To provide cleaning services at a residential premise to a vulnerable person.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><i>Example:</i> an end-of-tenancy or pre-settlement clean</p>
58.	Trade unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trade union representative only when providing representation to a person performing <b>essential work</b>.</li></ul>



## Attachment 2 – Non-essential business, activity or undertaking

*Note:* A business, activity or undertaking that is not listed in Column 1 must not operate other than in accordance with paragraph 16.b) of this Direction.

	<b>Column 1</b> <b>Non-essential business, activity, or undertaking</b>	<b>Column 2</b> <b>Conditions of operation (other than those outlined in the Direction)</b>
1.	Art Studios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The owner, operator or controller of an art studio may attend the premises to undertake personal art-related work including filming, live streaming or broadcasting.</li><li>Where there are multiple art studios located at one premises, the maximum number of people permitted to work at the premises at any one time is the lesser of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 person per 4 square metres; or</li><li>no more than 5 persons.</li></ul></li></ul> <p><b>Note:</b> An Art Studio that is a <b>non-essential retailer</b> may operate in accordance with Item 3 of Attachment 2.</p>
2.	Gyms, health clubs, fitness centres, wellness centres and dance studios	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>May permit no more than two people at any one time who work at the non-essential business, activity or undertaking to attend the premises for the purposes of filming, live streaming, or broadcasting to patrons.</li></ul> <p><i>Example</i> – a person who owns, controls or operates a gym or dance studio may permit two employees to attend the premises to film a class which is live streamed or otherwise distributed to members.</p>
3.	<b>Non-essential retailer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must only operate a <b>click and collect</b> service in accordance with the 'Click and Collect Services for Non Essential Retailers – COVID-19 Requirements' in Attachment 4, or otherwise provide goods or services by contactless means.</li><li>Must develop a <b>COVID-19 Safety Plan</b> available for inspection by an authorised officer by no later than 6 October 2021.</li></ul>





		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The maximum number of people who work at the <b>non-essential retailer</b> that may be present at the premises is the lesser of:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1 person per 4 square metres at the <b>non-essential retailer</b>; or</li><li>no more than 5 persons at the <b>non-essential retailer</b> at any one time.</li></ul></li></ul>
4.	<p>Outdoor services that operate solely outdoors, and where physical distancing can be maintained at all times.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> outdoor maintenance, cleaning, gardening where this is being undertaken at a residential premise and there is no contact between residents and workers. Mobile dog grooming services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Solo work should take place wherever possible, unless additional workers are required for safety reasons.</li><li>Does not include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>residential construction; and</li><li>personal training services.</li></ul><p><b>Note:</b> Personal training services may operate in accordance with Item 6 of Attachment 2</p></li></ul>
5.	Outdoor sporting facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Must operate with the minimum number of staff required to allow outdoor recreational sporting activities to occur.</li><li>Must ensure:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>social distancing</b> of people, wherever possible, is accommodated, implemented and monitored by staff of the sporting facility; and</li><li>a <b>gathering</b> does not exceed 1 person per 4 square metres per usable outdoor space; and</li><li>the people operating or working at the facility must wear masks in accordance with Part 3 of this Direction.</li></ul></li></ul>



6.	Personal training and coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A personal trainer or coach must work alone to provide personal training or coaching services outdoors (including an outdoor area of a <b>residence</b>) to no more than 2 participants at any one time.</li><li>• A personal trainer or coach must ensure that <b>social distancing</b> is maintained at all times.</li><li>• A personal trainer or coach must wear a mask in accordance with Part 3 of this Direction.</li></ul>
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## Introduction

The ACT Government is taking precautions during this time to limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep the ACT community safe. The ACT Government has approached the pathway out of lockdown for ACT schools with careful planning, drawing on national and local health advice, in response to the current and emerging needs of staff, students and families. These guidelines seek to prioritise the health and safety of staff and young people, while balancing their mental and emotional wellbeing and ensuring continuity of learning.

With COVID Safe plans and procedures in place and health systems ready to quickly identify and respond to cases, schools remain safe places.

The return to school and early childhood education and care (ECEC) services including Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) is consistent with the wider plans to relax restrictions in the ACT and the National Plan. High population vaccination coverage is a critical component of these plans, to protect both staff and students from infection with COVID-19 and minimise ECEC and school-based outbreaks. The epidemiology of the outbreak in the ACT and community restrictions will provide ongoing context for decision making.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) encourages schools to remain vigilant and continue to prevent opportunities for transmission in school settings. AHPPC has advised that physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, regular cleaning and disinfection of the environment, and staying home if unwell continue to be critical effective measures for responding to COVID-19. Systems to rapidly respond to cases (which may include temporary school closure), along with the agility to adjust measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in response to community transmission are important. Schools should be ready to return to a full or partial snap lockdown or temporarily close (in response to an exposure) if directed by the ACT Chief Health Officer (CHO). These principles also apply to ECECs.

## Health, Safety and Wellbeing

### The phased return of children and young people to ECEC and school

The return of children and young people to on campus learning at ECEC and school sites will commence in term 4 if health conditions allow.

To ensure public health measures can be implemented with maximum physical distancing while the ACT progresses to reaching vaccination milestones, the return of children and young people will be staggered by year group, across three phases, considering transition years (Years 12, 10, 6), developmental needs (ECEC, P-Year 2), year groups that share classes (where possible) (Years 11/12 and 9/10), and population vaccination coverage.

Commencing week 1 of term 4 - 5 October:	Year 12
Commencing week 3 of term 4 - 18 October:	Year 11
Commencing week 4 of term 4 - 25 October:	ECEC (including OSHC) <sup>1</sup> , Preschool, Kindergarten, Years 1 and 2; Year 6; Years 9 and 10
Commencing week 5 of term 4 - 1 November:	Years 3, 4 and 5; Years 7 and 8.

<sup>1</sup> Out of School Hours care to recommence for existing and returning school cohorts above.

Onsite supervision and care can continue for vulnerable children and young people whose parents or carers cannot work from home, and for children whose parents are required to undertake work from home and cannot reasonably provide care whilst working. However, until the end of week 2 of term 4, remote learning should continue, wherever possible, except for Years 11 and 12.

Parents/carers of children and young people with complex medical needs should be encouraged to consult their medical practitioner to determine if reasonable adjustments are required to ensure they can safely return to onsite learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Where reasonable adjustments can be made based on the medical practitioner's advice, schools should put those adjustments in place. Where reasonable adjustments can't be made, students should be supported to learn from home.

If required, based on medical advice, staff with complex medical conditions may also be supported to work from home where possible.

### **Vaccination**

Vaccination coverage is a key component of the return to ECEC and school plan. High levels of vaccination combined with public health social measures are the best protections against COVID. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to have 2 doses of vaccine where eligible.

ECEC and school staff and some students have been prioritised for vaccination; not all will have had the opportunity to receive two doses, and children in ECECs and primary schools will still be ineligible for COVID-19 vaccination at the time of their return. Vaccination of adults around children is the most effective way to protect unvaccinated children from disease. Very high to complete vaccination levels for staff undertaking face to face learning is a critical component of the suite of measures in this plan. This will require employers to conduct site level monitoring of staff vaccination rates.

At this stage, with ACT vaccination rates high and increasing, there appears to be no need for employers to implement a mandatory vaccination policy for ECEC and school staff. However, this may need to be reconsidered.

### **How should the safety of staff, children and young people be managed in ACT ECECs and Schools?**

ECECs and schools should continue to maintain COVID safe practices to prevent the spread of disease through a multi-pronged approach. ECECs and schools should have protocols in place and tested early in term 4.

All ACT ECECs and schools, including OSHC programs will be required to adhere to the AHPPC's updated advice on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools<sup>1</sup>. In the ACT context this includes:

#### **Use of the CBR Check in app**

At a minimum, all visitors must check into the site each time they arrive using the CBR check-in app. Schools may wish to consider implementing their own policy to require all adults and staff who attend school sites to also check in using the app.

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<sup>1</sup> Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) updated statement on minimising the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission in schools | Australian Government Department of Health

### Staying home when sick

Staff members, children and young people who are unwell must not attend an ACT ECEC or school and should stay home and get tested. If they attend while unwell, they must be sent home. In circumstances where staff, children or young people have other medical reasons for recurrent symptoms, a letter from the GP is sufficient to allow return to ECEC or school without a negative test.

### Hygiene

Good hand and respiratory hygiene practices are vital to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ECECs and schools should display signage and proactively implement good hygiene routines and practices. All staff, visitors, children and young people must:

- wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand-sanitiser on arrival and regularly throughout the day
- cough into their elbows or a tissue, place used tissues straight into the bin and do hand hygiene afterwards
- avoid touching eyes, noses, or mouths
- not share food or drink

### Masks

The use of masks is one of a suite of measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission. Staff, visitors, and students in years 7-12 should wear masks in the classroom and outside when in close contact with others, except when eating.

The wearing of masks for primary students is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carers but is not recommended for children in ECECs, or P – year 2 children. This is because masks are unlikely to be correctly worn by very young children and may represent a choking hazard. Masks may not be appropriate for children with a disability.

Masks need to be worn correctly to cover the nose and mouth. The use of masks, including exceptions to their use and when they can be removed, should align with current Public Health Directions.

Masks should be changed during lunch breaks or every four hours.

### Physical distancing

While it is acknowledged that physical distancing between children and young people is not always possible, particularly in single classrooms in the ECEC and school environments, it is important for limiting transmission of COVID-19. Unnecessary physical interaction in ECECs, school classrooms and on school grounds should be minimised.

All adults on ECEC and school sites must maintain physical distancing between themselves and other adults. Density quotients of one person per four square metres apply in non-student areas. Children and young people should physically distance from each other and from staff where possible.

Where possible, separate cohorts should be maintained, and cohorts who do not normally learn together should not mix; adults should stay within their cohort as far as possible. This does not include siblings. It is acknowledged some staff are required to provide essential services or course specific teaching to students across year groups, but this should be minimised where possible. Signage must be displayed to ensure physical distancing requirements are clear.

Optimising physical distancing will require:

- limiting gathering in, and staggering of the use of, common social spaces and indoor communal areas such as corridors, entry and exit points, canteens, school library and staff and common rooms.
  - entry to and exit from class at the start and end of the day, and breaks, should be staggered
- increasing in-class distancing to the extent this is possible
- adapting activities that minimises the mixing of classes and years; or where these occur, they should be held outdoors
- only allowing high risk behaviours for generation of aerosols, such as singing and playing wind instruments to occur outdoors
- assigning bathrooms and common rooms to staff and student cohorts where feasible
- cancelling close contact activities such as indoor and contact sports, camps, and excursions
- restricting OSHC to students attending the school where it is conducted
- cancelling extracurricular activities that would bring together children and young people from multiple year groups or classes, or other ECECs/schools, including sport, assemblies, performances and after school and inter-school activities. This does not apply to OSHC for children who attend school at the site where the OSHC program is delivered.
- encouraging children and young people to remain seated during classes
- scheduling the use of outdoor spaces and utilising outdoor learning spaces, where possible
- limit on site visitors
  - parents or carers must not enter school sites or come onto school grounds to drop off or collect children except in the case of an emergency or to provide necessary supports for a child or young person with additional needs which should be negotiated with the principal in advance. This does not apply to parents dropping off or collecting children from OSHC which requires a sign in/out procedure
  - parents or carers dropping off or collecting children from ECECs should limit the amount of time spent onsite as much as possible
  - access of tradespeople to the school grounds should be restricted during school hours, where possible. This does not include approved construction work that is required to continue throughout the day.
  - in all circumstances visitors must comply with the public health measures in place at the site, including wearing of masks and use of the CBR Check in app.
- stopping community organisations' access to school facilities during school hours

### Environmental cleaning

Site specific cleaning plans must be in place to ensure regular cleaning of high touch surfaces (such as handrails and desks), frequently used objects (such as staff desk top computers), common areas, toilets and play equipment.

### Ventilation

Indoor air quality can be associated with transmission of COVID-19. Ventilation should be optimised in the learning environment to minimise transmission. Outdoor learning should be encouraged and assisted where possible (balanced against sun safety and temperature considerations). ACT ECECs and schools are required to assess their current ventilation capacity and maximise fresh air as much as possible. This should include:

- adjusting systems where possible to increase the fresh (external) air being supplied to learning spaces and classrooms and reduce air recirculation (balanced against temperature considerations).
- using mechanical controls, such as opening windows and doors

The routine use of portable HEPA filters and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) monitors in ACT schools is not supported at this time, as the evidence for the additional public health benefit of these units over maximising fresh air is currently limited. ACT Health will continue to be guided by AHPPC advice and the evolving evidence on the specific benefit of these devices in addition to other public health measures in a school setting.

### Managing suspected or confirmed cases to prevent further transmission

ECECs and schools should have specific plans for managing children, young people, staff and visitors who display symptoms of COVID-19 and for managing a COVID-19 diagnosis in a child, young person, staff member or visitor to the school.

- **Staff, children, young people or visitors with COVID-19 symptoms** – Children and young people at ECECs or schools experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) must be isolated in an appropriate space with suitable supervision and collected by a parent/carer as soon as possible. Staff and visitors should be advised to travel directly home. The symptomatic person should wear a mask while waiting to be picked up or waiting to return home. If a child can't tolerate wearing a mask, then staff caring for a child who becomes sick whilst at an ECEC or school should wear a mask<sup>2</sup>, carry out frequent hand hygiene and practise physical distancing. There is no need for the staff member to then isolate unless they themselves become unwell or the child is confirmed to have COVID-19.
- **Confirmed cases** – If a staff member, child, young person, or family member is diagnosed with COVID-19, ACT Health will provide direction on further management, which may result in full or partial ECEC or school closure while site cleaning and contact tracing is undertaken.

The ACT Government has procedures in place to respond to a confirmed or suspected case in an ACT ECEC or school. This includes working with the ACT CHO to determine risks and may include full or partial closure of an individual ECEC or school. Quarantine and testing requirements will be communicated directly to ECEC or school communities via the ECEC service provider or school. Schools will be responsible for supporting continuity of learning for children and young people during a period of quarantine.

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<sup>2</sup> If available, the staff member should also wear eye protection



### **Routine testing for COVID-19**

At the current time, ACT Health is not recommending routine COVID-19 testing of children, young people and/or staff using rapid antigen testing. Home testing might be a future consideration, depending on the level of community transmission, noting that home testing kits are not currently registered for use in Australia at this time.

ACT Health will continue to monitor and review the national advice on routine testing for COVID-19.

### **School canteens**

The decision to open school canteens is at the discretion of the school, considering their school community and the need to avoid decreasing access to food for vulnerable children and young people. School canteens can be made safer if treated as take away venues, with pre-ordering and 'click and collect' for high schools/colleges and contactless delivery to classrooms in primary schools. These guidelines apply to all canteen workers, including the wearing of masks.

### **Wellbeing supports**

Children, young people, families and staff will all experience the impacts of COVID-19 in their own way. For some, this may include feelings of distress, anxiety, or confusion. A range of wellbeing supports and resources specifically for children, young people and families are available on the [ACT Health website](#). ECECs and schools should identify specific wellbeing supports for children, young people and staff.

### ***Will schools be able to celebrate end of year events like graduations and formals?***

The ACT Government acknowledges the significance of end of year events, including graduations and formals, in celebrating a student's achievements and key life transitions. The health and safety of children, young people, their families, and staff remain the primary consideration in determining what end of year events can go ahead.

The hosting of end of year events will therefore depend on the broader community context, and public health restrictions in place at the time. Advice on end of year events, together with guidance, will be provided as early as possible in term 4.

### ***What will happen if community infections increase in the ACT?***

A cautious approach is being taken to return to ECECs and school to minimise the need for future restriction.

If an outbreak is rapidly escalating in the ACT and there is the potential for the health system to be significantly strained, ECEC and school closures may be required in line with other community restrictions, to enable control of disease in the community. ECECs and schools must be ready to respond to a community wide lockdown or temporarily close (in response to an exposure) if directed by the ACT CHO or by the Children's Education and Care Assurance (CECA) on the advice of the ACT CHO.

The benefits and risks of ECEC and school closures will be carefully weighed. This includes the impact on educational, social, health and wellbeing outcomes, especially for vulnerable children and young people.

## **Additional Guidelines for Supporting Students with Disability including Personal Care Needs**

AHPPC recognises some students have greater risk of severe disease because of personal vulnerabilities. The same principles of preventing incursion of the virus and preventing spread through personal, environmental, and organisational actions can reduce the likelihood of severe disease for these students. These measures may be more challenging to implement for some students with disability. The need for staff vaccination is of critical importance in these circumstances.

### **Vaccination**

Vaccination coverage is a key component of the return to school plan. High levels of vaccination combined with public health social measures are the best protections against COVID. This is particularly so for some students with disability where some public health measures may be more difficult to implement e.g., physical distancing, mask wearing for students. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to have two doses of vaccine, where eligible.

### **Masks**

The wearing of masks may not be appropriate for children with a disability and is at the discretion of the student and their parents/carer. Masks are not recommended for children in P – year 2 children. This is because masks are unlikely to be correctly worn by very young children and may represent a choking hazard.

### ***What additional PPE requirements may be required in schools, over and above masks?***

Gloves and aprons should not be used routinely in schools. If providing care that involves specific risk of exposure to blood or body fluids (oral fluids, faeces, urine) use of gloves and a disposable plastic apron is appropriate. These must be removed and disposed of safely and hand hygiene performed after caring for each individual. Note with respect to faeces and urine, the risk of infection is related to other infectious organisms rather than COVID-19. Hand hygiene should be performed before putting on and after removing gloves.

If providing care that involves a risk of splashing of body fluids a visor is required to protect the eyes from splashing even if already wearing a surgical mask. Used PPE can generally be discarded directly into domestic waste. PPE used when attending to a person with suspected COVID-19 while waiting for collection can be placed in a separate plastic bag, which is then placed in domestic waste.

### ***Are there any procedures that are considered too high a risk for staff to undertake? For example, suction?***

Shallow suctioning of oral secretions for the purposes of mouth care is not considered to be an aerosol generating procedure. Procedures referred to as ‘aerosol generating procedures’ carry a higher risk of generating aerosols with particles potentially containing the virus that may transmit COVID-19. These procedures would usually be conducted in a clinical environment and include procedures such as insertion or removal of an endotracheal tube, surgical procedures on the respiratory tract and procedures to induce a person to cough.

When performing shallow oral suctioning, a surgical mask should be worn, and if there is a risk of a student coughing, or splashing of respiratory fluids, gloves, gown, and visor should also be worn.

### ***What is recommended for cleaning chews?***

Chews should be cleaned every day. If available, a sterilising solution with both disinfection and food safety properties used for cleaning baby feeding bottles and accessories, can be used according to the manufacturer’s instructions. If a suitable sterilising solution is not available, chews should be washed

thoroughly with dishwashing detergent and hot water, and then should be rinsed and dried with paper towel. Chews should not be shared between children. Staff should perform hand hygiene after touching a chew.

***Some of our families don't have options to transport their child. Can a school bus be used to transport a student home with staff members assisting?***

Wherever possible, if a person is symptomatic, a personal mode of transport is preferable, such as a private car, to minimise exposure to others. If this is not possible and a student and/or staff members needs to use rideshare or a taxi, they should avoid direct contact with the driver (i.e., sit at the back of the care) and follow good respiratory and hand hygiene to best of their ability. If a mask is tolerated, it should be used if the student is in Year 3 or above.

***Can specialist schools utilise onsite hydrotherapy pools to support the health and behaviour management plans of students?***

Yes. Schools have been identified as essential services. For those specialist schools who use hydrotherapy pools to support their usual operations, the restrictions on pools do not apply. There is no requirement to apply for an exemption for those schools. Physical distancing for adults and good hygiene should continue to be practised in and around school pools.

***Will therapists be allowed to visit students on site once we return to face-to-face learning? Are there any additional requirements they need to meet?***

Whilst visitors such as therapists are permitted to attend on site at schools, they must ensure they adhere to measures in these guidelines. They must report through the front office on arrival.



# CLICK AND COLLECT SERVICES FOR NON-ESSENTIAL RETAILERS

COVID-19 Requirements  
September 2021

[covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)



**ACT**  
Government



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# Purpose

**The COVID-19 Requirements (the Requirements) for click and collect services for non-essential retail businesses in the ACT provide direction to employers and employees in managing risk relating to COVID-19 in the performance of these services.**

**The purpose of these Requirements is to:**

- > Provide direction to employers and workers
- > Outline the steps to be taken to best provide a safe and healthy environment, and
- > Support the safety of our community during the pandemic.

Arrangements for essential retailers are covered by restrictions contained in [Public Health Directions](#).

These Requirements will be regularly updated to reflect changes from Government announcements, directions of the ACT Chief Health Officer and best practices.

## Click and Collect Services

**For the purposes of these Requirements, click and collect services includes:**

- > A facility whereby a customer can buy or order goods on-line and collect them from a premises identified by the seller. It can involve customers picking up goods from a collection point or delivery of goods to a customer's vehicle.
- > Fulfillment of online orders by sellers being in the business premises or warehouse facility to package, dispatch and/or deliver goods, including subsequent delivery of goods if done by the business itself.



# About COVID-19

**A coronavirus infection can cause mild to severe respiratory illness. COVID-19 can spread from person to person through:**

- > close contact with an infectious person, including in the 24 hours before they started showing symptoms
- > contact with droplets from an infected person's cough or sneeze
- > touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs or tables) that have cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person and then touching your mouth or face.

This means that COVID-19 can spread widely and quickly. People can protect themselves from COVID-19 by [getting vaccinated](#) if they are eligible, practising physical distancing, hand hygiene and wearing a mask.

**The main symptoms of COVID-19 are:**



fever



cough



sore throat



shortness  
of breath



loss of smell  
or taste



runny or  
blocked nose

Less common symptoms are a runny or blocked nose, muscle pain, joint pain, diarrhoea, nausea, headache, vomiting, loss of appetite, fatigue. Symptoms can develop between two to 14 days after you are exposed to the virus. More information about Symptoms and when to get tested can be found at [Stay safe and healthy - COVID-19](#).

*The latest information about COVID-19, including current restrictions and COVID safety, is at **[covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)**. It is important to stay up-to-date on changes and current Public Health Directions.*



# ✓ Overarching protocols

**Unless otherwise required in the Public Health Direction, the following protocols are required as a minimum:**

- > Contactless or online payment are the only acceptable payment methods.
- > Staff members must wear masks at all times and maintain physical distance of at least 1.5 metres between staff members and all customers.
- > Contactless collection and delivery is required for all transactions.
- > All businesses must have a COVID Safety Plan that is regularly updated and available on request, with identified person(s) being responsible for ensuring it is implemented and monitored on site.
  - The COVID Safety Plan must specifically address each premises and the click and collect activities to be undertaken.
  - The use of COVID Marshals is encouraged.
  - Smaller businesses can develop their COVID Safety Plan by using the [COVID-19 Safety Checklist for Small Businesses](#).
- > Employers must encourage people to stay home if unwell and get tested if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild. This applies to both staff and visitors attending the premises.
- > Use of the Check-in CBR app is mandatory for all staff and customers, even if they don't physically enter the premises and/or remain in their vehicle.
- > Observe staffing limits in the Public Health Direction, with density requirements of one person per four square metres for each space to be observed.
- > Where possible, teams should not co-mingle on site and access to, and time spent in, shared spaces should be minimised or carefully managed.
  - Common areas, and all frequently touched surfaces and equipment, should be wiped down regularly with appropriate cleaning and sanitising disinfectants.
- > Where possible, the collection point(s) for goods should be situated in a prominent location outside the store and in view of a CCTV camera, with appropriate lighting and security measures in place.





# COVID Safety Plan

**All retailers offering click and collect services are required to have a site specific COVID Safety Plan.** Guidelines for the preparation of a COVID Safety Plan is part of the Business Resource Kit at [covid19.act.gov.au/signs-and-factsheets](https://covid19.act.gov.au/signs-and-factsheets). Small businesses may also wish to refer to the [COVID-19 Safety Checklist for Small Businesses](#).

COVID Safety Plans must be regularly reviewed. Workers should be consulted in the development and review of the COVID Safety Plans and given the opportunity to be consulted about the risks to their safety.

## **At a minimum, the COVID Safety Plan must outline:**

- > How physical distancing between staff and customers will be maintained.
- > Safe movement of people and traffic for each site, including, where appropriate, traffic management plans and movement to and from collection points (including managing customers who are waiting).
  - Traffic management plans must be developed for click and delivery to vehicle activities.
- > Cleaning, sanitising and hygiene requirements, including correct use of Personal Protective Equipment.
- > Management of workers and visitors that may be displaying symptoms or have come into contact with COVID-19, including but not limited to:
  - screening processes for employees, including obtaining assurances that employees:
    - are free of COVID-19 symptoms
    - have not, in the preceding 14 days been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, and
    - have not been identified as a close or casual contact, have not visited a close or casual contact site as listed on the [covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au) website and have not been directed to self-isolate or self-quarantine by ACT Health or any other jurisdiction.
  - Process for managing staff who are identified as a close or casual contact
  - Process for management of people presenting as unwell or displaying symptoms
  - Screening should be conducted while maintaining safe distances, over the phone before entering site, on a mobile app, via text message system, or other non-contact methods. It is advisable to have a system that limits the sharing of pens/ notebooks/ computers etc during the screening process.
- > Use of Check-in CBR app for staff and customers.
- > The use of appropriate signage (for staff and customers).
- > Arrangements for delivery drivers, if relevant (noting information is available at [Delivery drivers - Safe Work Australia](#)).
- > Record keeping requirements.



# Staff Induction and Training

**All staff are to be inducted in the measures contained in the current COVID Safety Plan and re-inducted every time the COVID Safety Plan changes.** Records are to be kept of staff induction activities.

All staff are to undertake relevant training necessary to implement the COVID Safety Plan, including in infection control. Records are to be kept of the training undertaken.

## Click and Collect at Premises

**In addition to the overarching protocols, the following practices should be adopted for click and collect services involving a customer picking up goods from a business premises:**

- > Businesses should use an appointment system with customers being provided a designated time, date and place of collections to manage the flow of people at a premises.
  - Wait times and queues for customers are to be minimised.
- > Customers are not to enter stores for any purposes and stores should be clearly closed off for customers with appropriate signage in place that the store is not open to customers.
  - Customers must not enter the store for shopping, browsing, self-selection or trying on goods.
- > Physical barriers, for example tables and temporary plexiglass screens, are to be put in place at the point of collection to maintain physical distance of 1.5 metre between staff and customers.
  - Need to ensure that any barriers do not create fire safety and exit point risks, or impact on access for people with a disability.
- > Click and collect pick-up locations should be clearly marked, with physical barriers where possible, to maintain physical distancing and minimise the risk of customers co-mingling.
  - There should be clearly marked waiting areas so customers know where to wait and clear signage in place to indicate movement and spacing requirements.
- > Hand sanitiser should be located at collection points for customer use.
- > Staff and customers are to wear face masks at all times.
- > Check-in CBR QR codes should be prominently displayed and check in visually verified by staff prior to collection of goods, whether or not the customer is in a vehicle or collecting it in person.
- > Clear signage indicating the collection point and delivery protocols should be displayed.



## Delivery to a vehicle

- > Deliveries can be made directly to a customer's vehicle by pre-arrangement.
- > The use of the Check-in CBR is required for vehicle collections.
- > Customers should remain in vehicles at all times with face masks on, including after the worker places the items in the boot and moves away from the vehicle.
- > There must be a way to identify the customer and the car without close interaction.
- > Goods cannot be handed directly from a staff member to a customer.
- > If a customer alights the vehicle, physical distancing and mask wearing must be strictly adhered to.
- > If a customer chooses to load goods into a vehicle, staff should not assist the customer and physical distancing and hand hygiene is to be maintained at all times.
- > Where there are multiple parking bays for click and collect processes, there should be:
  - clear identification of which parking bay the customer should park in or collect licence plate information to minimise contact between the customer and the worker, and
  - a minimum of one parking space should be left between each bay to allow for social distancing between vehicles where goods are being delivered to.
- > Parking bays for delivery to vehicles should be located as close as possible to the premises to limit workers' travel through centres/areas and contact with other people in public places.



## Compliance

**The business may be directed to cease trading until it demonstrates compliance if there is:**

- > deliberate or wilful non-compliance; or
- > ongoing disregard for health directions; or
- > there is not a current and compliant COVID Safety Plan in existence.

Nothing within these guidelines removes obligations for other regulatory requirements such as Work Health and Safety, fire safety or the Building code.

