

COVID-19 in Victoria: Local Area Emergency declared

A Local Area Emergency (LAE) has been declared for Victoria following the recent COVID-19 outbreaks. The LAE has been declared for all Victorian Local Government Areas for the period **Friday 28 May 2021 until Thursday 10 June 2021 and will continue to be assessed should an extension be required.**

Absences

Victorian families will have access to additional absences during the LAE period if they have used their available allowable absences.

In addition to the standard 42 allowable absences, children attending a Victorian service have an extra 45 days of allowable absences for the 2020–21 financial year. This measure was introduced in response to Victoria's second wave lockdown in 2020.

[Visit our website for information about absences during emergencies.](#)

Gap fee waiver

Services directed to close by a local authority because of COVID-19 can waive gap fees until 30 June 2021.

If you have to close

If you close your service, you must report the closure within 24 hours to:

- CCSAssessments@dese.gov.au
- your [state or territory regulatory authority](#), and
- your third-party software provider.

Help in an emergency

For more information about help available before, during and after an emergency visit our [Help in an emergency page](#).

Support for families

Families affected by COVID-19 may be eligible to receive additional support with the cost of child care through the [Additional Child Care Subsidy \(temporary financial hardship\)](#). Families must apply directly to Centrelink.

Families looking for alternative child care options during an emergency can visit [Starting Blocks](#) or [Child Care Finder](#).

For action

- Update your vacancy details in the [Child Care Finder](#). Do this via the [Provider Entry Point](#) or your third-party software.
- Update your contact details, particularly email addresses, in the Child Care Subsidy System so you don't miss important information. Do this via the [Provider Entry Point](#) or your third-party software.
- Ask families to maintain their enrolments. This will ensure their children receive continuity of care and early learning.
- Keep an eye on the [Victorian Government's COVID response website](#).

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DESE early childhood website