



Australian Government
Department of Education,
Skills and Employment

COVID-19: What Victorian lockdown means for child care

On 5 August, the Victorian Government announced a seven-day lockdown for all of Victoria. Details can be found on the [Victorian Government COVID-19 response website](#).

During the lockdown, child care, family day care, early learning centres and kinders will remain open.

At this stage there is no change to fee charging or absences in relation to the lockdown.

If Child Care Subsidy (CCS) is being claimed by services, families are liable to pay the gap fee. Families have access to 42 absence days per financial year that can be used for any reason.

We are monitoring the situation and will work closely with the Victorian Government and peak organisations from the sector as the situation evolves.

Gap fee waiving

Services directed to close by a local authority because of COVID-19 can waive gap fees until 31 December 2021.

Support for services

The [COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#) provides financial support for workers who have lost hours as a result of a state public health order.

Providers and services in Victoria may be eligible for a range of COVID-19 support funding. For information on whole-of-Australian Government support for businesses affected by COVID-19, visit [business.gov.au](#).

Some services may be eligible for a [Community Child Care Fund Special Circumstances Grant](#). Applicants must request funding after an event has occurred and they have accessed other COVID support.

Support for families

The [Additional Child Care Subsidy \(temporary financial hardship\)](#) is available to support families experiencing temporary financial hardship.

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

If you have to close

You must tell us if you are temporarily closing your service for any reason and for any period. To do this, use the [Provider Entry Point \(PEP\)](#) or your third-party software.

These notifications are additional to those you must give your [state or territory regulatory authority](#).

For action

- Update your vacancy details in the [Child Care Finder](#). Do this via the [PEP](#) 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 [PEP](#) or your third-party software.
- Ask families to maintain their enrolments. This will ensure children receive continuity of care and early learning.

Keep an eye on the [Victorian Government COVID-19 response website](#) for local updates.

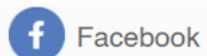
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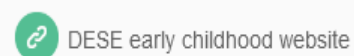
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