



An important message regarding Goodstart's response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



# For our families



**In addition to our commitment to safety standards every day, during the COVID-19**

**pandemic we have enhanced our infectious disease and hygiene practices.**

As part of the Goodstart family, you can be assured that we've been busy preparing for the possibility that the Coronavirus – now known as COVID-19 – might spread through our community.

We have health and safety experts working to ensure we are taking every precaution to protect and support children, and our centre-based teams during this time.

Goodstart is taking a very active approach to the issue and is in frequent contact with health and education authorities right across the country.

As part of our precautionary measures, we have enhanced our infectious disease and hygiene practices within each of our centres across Australia. For those familiar with our centres, you will know that we implement best practice infectious disease and hygiene practices every day. At this time of particular risk, we are doing everything we can to minimise the risk of transmission to our community in line with public health advice.

Included in the information that follows, you will notice that we have placed particular focus on enhancing our entrance to centre practices, our cleaning of facilities and touch points, our emphasis on personal hygiene and our inter-personal hygiene.

The safety of our team and your child is of great importance to us and we invite you to engage actively with our centre teams so that we are best placed to provide safe learning environments for your loved ones.

**Kylie Warren-Wright**

Goodstart National Safe Work and Wellbeing Manager



# Enhanced infectious diseases and hygiene practices

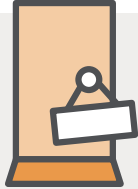
Our centres have comprehensive infection control procedures in place and our teams have the training to ensure hygiene practices are implemented within our centres. These can be found in the following documents:

- Infectious Disease Identification, Management and Exclusion Procedure
- Daily Cleaning Checklist
- Staying Healthy in ECEC, National Health and Medical Research Council

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we will also be enhancing our entrance protocol, the cleaning of facilities and touchpoints, our personal hygiene practices and our interpersonal hygiene practices as seen below.

## Enhanced entrance protocol

- Only essential visitors should enter the centre including during pick up and drop off
- Anyone unwell or showing **signs of sickness** should remain at home
- Exclude anyone who has travelled overseas in the last 14 days or had close contact with a confirmed case COVID-19
- All visitors and families are to use **hand sanitiser** on entry and exit and also if hand washing is not possible
- Excursions and incursions are currently suspended



## Enhanced personal hygiene practices

- Ensure handwashing facilities are stocked and the correct **hand washing** procedure is followed by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Cover **coughs** or **sneezes** with a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in the rubbish bin and wash hands with soap and water. If you don't have a tissue, cough into the crook of your elbow.
- Try to **avoid touching your face** (especially eyes, nose, and mouth)
- Implement **social distancing** where possible and keep children within their class grouping



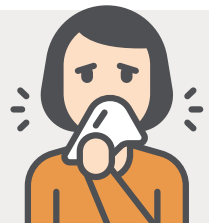
## Enhanced cleaning of facilities and touchpoints

- Educators will clean common touch points (below) every two hours (and **more frequently** during busy times) with hospital grade disinfectants. This includes:
  - computer keyboards, mouse, iPads, phones, keypads, gate releases
  - door handles, door frames, door push plates, light switches, QK Kiosk
  - frequently touched glass or windows
  - taps, fridge handles, draw, cupboard handles, microwaves
- An external cleaner will undertake a daily clean of the centre after hours, including additional cleaning of all common touch points



## Enhanced interpersonal hygiene practices

- Implement the 'Unwell Children' policy and ensure children are not dropped off if they are unwell
- If children become unwell during the day, where possible isolate them until they can be collected.
- Ensure each child is provided individual meals (no self-serve or progressive meals)
- Ensure every child has their hands thoroughly cleaned before eating and before leaving the meals area to play
- For staff meals, where possible rotate staff so that the 1.5m distance can be maintained



All Goodstart safety policies and procedures are in accordance with 'Staying healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services 5th edition' as per the National Health and Medical Research Council's advice.

This information is relevant at time of receipt from the National Safe Work & Wellbeing Manager and is subject to updates that will be provided to your Centre Director.

If you have any questions related to Goodstart's response to COVID-19, please call our Family Support Team on:

 **1800 222 543**