



Director-General's UPDATE

Thursday, 26th March 2020

Dear foster and kinship carers

Since my last email, the impact of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has prompted many changes to the way we live and work. There are a few key messages from our colleagues in Queensland Health:

- Most people (around 80%) will only develop mild illness and recover easily. We need to be especially vigilant for those of us who are older and those who have an underlying disease.
- You are at higher risk of infection if you have had face to face contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes or have shared an enclosed space with them for more than 2 hours.

Not everyone is going to get COVID-19 but we all have a role to play in keep ourselves and others well.

- Practice social distancing.
- Wash your hands often.
- If you have been overseas in the last 14 days and feel unwell then see your doctor immediately
- While you are self-quarantining, if you start to feel unwell seek medical attention.
- All non-essential business and gatherings should not go ahead.
- All essential day to day activities and business such as school and work can proceed, observing the one person per four square metre rule.

As these changes have come into place across the community, you have raised a number of questions about how they will affect you, your family and the children in your care.

The health and wellbeing of our children and young people, and the families who care for them, continues to be our top priority.

To help you navigate these uncertain times, we have published a list of [frequently asked questions](#) from carers on our website.

These FAQs cover the latest advice around family contact visits, contingencies for possible school closures, and consent for COVID-19 testing, among other issues.

The main message at this stage, however, is that all essential day-to-day activities, such as school and work, can proceed as normal.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 and how it may impact you as a carer and the child or young person you are caring for, please contact your foster and kinship care service provider, or local child safety service centre.

To keep up to date, I encourage you to download the [Carer Connect app](#) and check our [website](#).

For up-to-date, accurate and reliable information regarding hygiene practices,

please visit the [Queensland Health website](#).

Please be assured we want to provide you with clear information and as much support as we can. We know that you are thinking about the health and welfare of your children.

Warm regards

Deidre Mulkerin

Director-General

Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women

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