As we work together to limit the spread of COVID-19 in our community, it is important that we maintain the best possible hygiene standards for staff and children in our early childhood services and implement social distancing practices.

**Social distancing**

* Consider running an indoor/outdoor program.
* Maximise time spent outdoors.
* Organise progressive mornings teas and lunches. Ensure that that plates and food are not shared.
* Allow more space between children at mealtimes and for indoor activities.
* Limit visits to other classes and classrooms within the service.
* Talk to children about social distancing. What is OK and not OK? Use analogies like pretending you have a bubble around you or guidelines like keeping an arms length apart.
* Adjust roles and responsibilities for educators who feel they may be at risk. For example, educators who fall into at risk age cohorts or have an underlying medical condition may need to be moved to rooms to care for older children where it is easier to implement social distancing.
* Ensure all areas within the service are available to children. For example, if you have a room that is reserved for group times or rest, make this available as an extra play space.
* Reconsider family grouping at the beginning and end of the day.
* Consider whether scheduled lockdown and emergency drills should go ahead at this time. CECA will be flexible around these requirements and will accept adjusted strategies such as discussing the procedure with children or conducting drills with smaller groups if this is documented.

Please note it is important to consider that children may be anxious and need comfort from educators. Social distancing should be implemented when appropriate but should not compromise children’s wellbeing.

**Health and hygiene**

* Wash hands when entering the school, at regular intervals throughout the day and prior to and after eating.
* Intentionally teach handwashing techniques and personal hygiene strategies. Use a familiar song or rhyme to support children to hand wash for the prescribed length of time.
* Educators should prioritise the supervision of handwashing to support children to do this effectively.
* Implement extra cleaning routines of touch point surfaces and resources used by many children and or educators.
* Limit experiences where children share resources that cannot be easily cleaned e.g. playdough, cloth resources.
* Ensure strict hygiene is observed around food preparation.
* Ensure you are communicating regularly with families regarding children’s day to day health and medications administered to children at home.
* Special consideration should be given to children with medical conditions and risk minimisation plans should be reviewed as additional precautionary actions may be required.