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| Children's Education and Care Assurance |
| 09 March 2021**COVID-19 Vaccination Program update**As announced by the Prime Minister, the national roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine program started in February 2021 in a [phased approach](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australias-covid-19-vaccine-national-roll-out-strategy). The provision of COVID-19 vaccines in the ACT is guided by the [Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/australian-covid-19-vaccination-policy).With, the provision of COVID-19 vaccine programs in the ACT, Early Childhood Education and Care Services should consider:* developing a staff immunisation policy that states the immunisation requirements for educators and other staff
* developing a staff immunisation record that documents each staff member’s previous infection and or immunisation for diseases (refer to [Staying Healthy 5th edition](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf) – 4.2.1 Recommended vaccinations for educators and other staff)
* completing staff immunisation record for all current and new staff
* regularly updating staff immunisation records as staff become vaccinated
* providing staff with information about vaccine-preventable diseases—for example, through in-service training and written material, such as fact sheets in Staying healthy in Childcare.
* taking all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune staff to be vaccinated.

The health advice on immunisation is that educators and other staff who are not immunised can place children (especially younger age groups) at greater risk of acquiring a vaccine-preventable disease. All education and care service staff should be advised of the potential consequences if they choose not to be immunised These include:* being restricted to working with children over 12 months old;
* potentially having to take antibiotics during outbreaks of bacterial diseases that are vaccine preventable, even if the educator is not ill; and
* being excluded from work during outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Educators who are concerned about potential health risks related to the immunisation should consult their GP for adviceFor further information on preventing infectious disease or immunisation refer to [Staying Healthy 5th Edition](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/ch55-staying-healthy.pdf) and for information on work health and safety vaccine requirements, visit [Safe Work Australia Early Childhood Education and Care](https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/early-childhood-education/vaccination). Whether you are in the first phase of the roll out or not, please stay up to date and continue to be COVIDSafe. The ACT Government and the Australian Government will provide further information about how the next phases of the vaccines will roll out over the coming months.In the meantime, everyone still needs to:* practise good hygiene;
* maintain physical distancing;
* stay home if you are sick and get tested; and
* download the [Check in CBR App](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/business-and-work/check-in-cbr?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIlp7Yh_j07gIV0NeWCh1WXgzlEAAYASAAEgIWEPD_BwE)

If you require further information regarding the COVID-19 Vaccination Program please visit ACT government [COVID-19 website](https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/stay-safe-and-healthy/covid-19-vaccine) For enquires in relation to this notification please email CECA@ACT.gov.au. We will respond to your questions as soon as we can and update our frequently asked questions on our [webpage](https://www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood/information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-for-early-childhood).  For enquires in relation to this notification please call CECA on (02) 6207 1114 or email CECA@ACT.gov.au.This email has been authorised by the ACT Regulatory Authority (CECA). CECA are responsible for administering the National Quality Framework within the ACT. |

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