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| Children's Education and Care Assurance |
| 30 January 2020**Novel coronavirus information ACT education and care providers and services** Updated advice has been received from the ACT Chief Health Officer on the management of novel coronavirus in the ACT. The advice is as follows:* Children should attend childcare as normal unless they have close contact with a person with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus, or they have returned from the Hubei Provence in China within the last 14 days.
* Students and families who have visited mainland China, other than the Hubei Provence, can attend childcare as normal.
* Any child, or who has a family member, that has visited the Hubei Provence will be subject to a 14-day period of isolation at home.

Further information for care services can be found in the attached the ACT Health factsheet. ***Novel Coronavirus 2019 – Information for Schools and Childcare – 30 January 2020.***Please distribute the attached factsheet ***Novel Coronavirus 2019 – Information for parents of children in schools*** ***or childcare – 30 January 2020*** to parents.Education and care providers and services are encouraged to review their obligations of responding to infectious diseases. [Regulation 88](https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/regulation/2011/653/chap4/part4.2/div2/reg88) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations requires providers and services to: * Ensure that reasonable steps are taken to prevent the spread of the infectious disease at the service.
* In an event of an infectious disease at a service the approved provider must ensure that a parent or an authorised emergency contact of each child being educated and cared for is notified of the occurrence as soon as practicable.

Any infectious disease should be notifiable to Children’s Education and Care Assurance (CECA) and ACT Health’s Communicable Disease Control Unit telephone 02 5124 9213. Providers and services should submit a notification to CECA using the [National Quality Agenda IT System](https://public.nqaits.acecqa.gov.au/Pages/Landing.aspx) (NQAITS) to meet [notification requirements](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/notification-types-and-timeframes). Providers and services should submit a notification to CECA using the [National Quality Agenda IT System](https://public.nqaits.acecqa.gov.au/Pages/Landing.aspx) (NQAITS) to meet [notification requirements](https://www.acecqa.gov.au/resources/applications/notification-types-and-timeframes). Providers are encouraged to seek advice from ACT Health when they suspect an infectious disease outbreak is affecting their service, including outbreaks of coronavirus or respiratory illnesses.The ACT Health Directorate has well established processes and procedures in place for the management of infectious diseases should they occur in the ACT and is working in partnership with the Australian Government Department of Health and jurisdictional counterparts to monitor and respond to the situation. Please check the ACT Health [website](https://www.health.act.gov.au/) for current information on the virus including its symptoms, and regular updates as the situation develops /changes. 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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