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| Children's Education and Care Assurance Alert |

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| *The Children’s Education and Care Assurance Update links professionals, providers and educators with news, resources and information that supports quality outcomes for children in ACT education and care services***27 May 2020****Ethical decision making during difficult times** Many ACT education and care providers, leaders and educators have and continue to make decisions about competing and complex priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic. To provide additional support to you and your team CECA has commissioned Catharine Hydon and Early Childhood Australia to deliver this free *Making difficult decisions – choosing the right thing to do to move forward* professional learning resource. In this video Catharine Hydon and Dr Kate Highfield share ideas that can assist with ethical decision making during these difficult times. **Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) statement on early childhood and learning centres in response to COVID-19** AHPPC have recently provided further advice and clarification to complement AHPPC’s initial [statement](https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-coronavirus-covid-19-statement-on-3-april-2020) published on 6 April 2020 about COVID-19 for education and care services.  On 25 May 2020 AHPPC provided further [clarification](https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-early-childhood-and-learning-centres?fbclid=IwAR0b8M6kWyF8QfHbfCfq5dpEkQvErs1XPcZ4sW6-ISqMQ-9lQvobUN0Dr_E) to complement AHPPC’s statement for education and care services which reinforces that unwell staff, children and visitors should not attend any education and care service.  Children, staff and parents should use appropriate hand and respiratory hygiene and services should use an enhanced cleaning regimen.AHPPC has identified that the ‘venue density rule’ of no more than 1 person per 4 square metres is not appropriate or practical in education and care services, nor is maintaining 1.5m between children. This extends to rooms, corridors and outdoor play areas. This advice applies to children interacting with other children, and also to adults providing care or interacting with children in this environment. For more information visit the Australian Government Department of Health website.**Keeping up to date with CECA**ACT providers, service leaders and educators are encouraged to keep up to date with information from CECA by visiting our [website](https://www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood/information-on-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-for-early-childhood) on a regular basis. Information including our Frequently Asked Questions are updated to support the ACT education and care community. CECA also share regular information, resources and news from the [CECA Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CECAACT/) page. CECA distribute alerts, notifications, updates and the Talking Quality publication to provider and service contacts recorded in National Quality Assurance Information Technology System (NQAITS). Please ensure that email details are accurate. Additional email contacts can be added to CECA’s distribution list by request; please send a request in writing to CECA@act.gov.au to register. If you have already requested to be included on CECA’s email distribution list there is no need to do this again. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to children and families in the ACT and surrounding NSW regions.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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