

COVID safety at IGS ELC

Q: I would like to see the IGS Early Learning Centre in action. Why can't I take a tour?

A: During COVID-19 restrictions, to help keep our community safe only staff and children may enter our campus. We regret that tours are not possible at this time, and thank you for your understanding.

Q: How can I see inside the Centre?

A: We warmly invite you to [take this virtual tour](#) of the school which includes a tour of the Centre. You are also welcome to [visit the IGS website](#), which includes stories and information on activities inside our Centre.

Q: When will it be possible to visit the centre?

A: At this stage of the pandemic, non essential visitors are unable to enter the school campus or Centre. To keep our children, staff and community safe we will continue to follow the Public Health Order and post updates regarding Centre tours on our website. We thank you for your patience at this time.

Q: What are the vaccination requirements for staff in Early Education and Care Services?

A: Early education and care workers who live or work in the LGAs of concern must have their first vaccination dose by 6 September 2021. Early education and care workers who live in the 12 LGAs of concern and work outside of the LGA will also be required to have a vaccination by 6 September 2021. All IGS Early Learning staff have received at least the first dose of the vaccine.

Q: How is the Centre promoting health and wellbeing during COVID19?

A: Our staff are working exceptionally hard to ensure children attending the program are well supported and experience as much continuity in the daily routine and learning experiences as possible in a way that is COVID-safe for children of this age group.

Our educators support children's understanding of the virus and discuss health and hygiene practices, such as physical distancing, handwashing and sneeze etiquette, to help keep us safe.

Q: How is environmental cleaning taking place at IGS Early Learning?

A: IGS employs a team of professional cleaners who conduct a deep clean every evening in addition to regular cleaning of all high touch surfaces frequently during our operational hours.

Frequent environmental cleaning aims to minimise the number of germs that survive on surfaces in the Centre.

In addition to the high levels of professional cleaning, Early Learning staff wipe, wash and soak each piece of play equipment in the classrooms daily during the pandemic.

Q: Are aspects of teaching and learning adapted to promote health and safety?

We have adapted transitions and group times to reduce large groups of children coming together, and have planned routines and transitions to discourage gatherings of children. Children are encouraged to practice social distancing e.g. with seating positions identified during small group activities.

Q: Are parents and carers able to enter the Centre at arrival and departure times?

A: Drop-offs and pick-ups are arranged in such a way as to minimise the need for contact between adults. Parents and carers are unable to enter the school campus or Centre at this time. Parents drop off and collect their child from the Kelly Street entrance of the Centre. We implement a smooth running 'concierge' style arrival and departure procedure with children warmly welcomed by a staff member at the entrance to the Centre. Staff assist children to unpack their belongings and settle into a learning experience on arrival. Parents and carers must wear a mask at all times when dropping off or collecting their child.

Q: Do Early Learning staff need to wear masks?

A: By the public health order masks are required in indoor and outdoor settings in Early Childhood Education and Care settings across NSW. IGS Early Learning staff wear masks at all times, including during outdoor developmental play sessions in the playground.

Q: Does IGS conduct temperature checks of children on arrival to the Centre?

A: The Department of Education and the Department of Health continue to advise there is no requirement to check the temperatures of children or staff on arrival to the Centre. Temperature checks are not always effective at picking up people with COVID-19. This is because a significant proportion of people with COVID-19 don't have a fever. Temperature checks can also cause queues which prevent people from maintaining physical distancing.

In the Centre, teachers and educators will continue to use their knowledge of individual children to recognise when a child may not be feeling well. This could include obvious symptoms such as coughing and a runny nose. It could also include observations of children who appear lethargic, the child not participating in activities in their usual way, or the child letting us know they don't feel well. In these cases, staff will contact the child's parent or carer to request a parent or authorised person collect the child from the Centre as soon as possible.

Q: What if my child is unwell?

A: Anyone who has even the mildest of symptoms including fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell/taste, muscle/joint pains, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting or extreme tiredness should immediately be tested and isolate until they get a negative test result.

Children can return to the Centre when they are feeling well, free of symptoms and have provided a copy of COVID19 negative test results.

Q: What if a child becomes unwell at the Centre?

A: Where a child becomes unwell at the Centre staff will contact the child's family to collect them as soon as possible. Where possible (where supervision and ratio requirements allow) we will keep the child in isolation until they are collected. If the unwell child displays symptoms of COVID19 the parent will be required to take their child for COVID19 testing and to provide a copy of the test result prior to the child's return to the Centre.