

## Key Points on the New Directives from DSD (Issued 11 September 2020)

This document has been put together by the Centre for Early Childhood Development to detail the key points to note from the new directions from DSD. However, it is important to read the full document for all the details.



### Some of the key points to note:

- The aim of the new directions document by DSD is to assist ECD centres with the arrangements for reopening of ECD centres and the return of children.
- These guidelines are for all ECD centres & programmes (registered & unregistered)
- ECD centres may reopen provided the health and safety measures are in place. (After-school services may reopen too, provided the health and safety measures are in place).
- The principal must **complete a Declaration Form** (Annexure A of the new directives) that indicates that their facility complies with the minimum health, safety and social distancing measures.
- If your centre does not comply with the health, safety and social distancing measures then your centre must remain closed until these measures are all in place.

### Conditions for return of children to ECD centre/programme

- Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian (or person designated by parent/legal guardian) to the ECD centre every day to assist with the screening process. Children cannot answer these questions by themselves.
- However, if a child does arrive unaccompanied, the ECD centre must not refuse the child entry. The procedure in the SOP must be applied in this instance.
- Children with a known underlying health condition that may place them at a higher than normal risk, may not return to the centre unless a medical practitioner gives written authorisation that it is safe to do so.
- The centre must inform parents that return to school is voluntary, and the details of the daily screening process.

## Screening

- ECD centres must conduct daily screening. Any person who enters centre must be screened.
- If any person has any Covid-related symptoms, these must be reported to the manager of the centre.
- Procedure if a person/child has symptoms:
  - This person/child must not enter the premises; unless the child is unaccompanied, in which case the child may enter but the following procedure must be taken:
    - Isolate the person/child and make arrangements to be transported from the premises in a way that does not place others at the centre at risk. The person/child should then either be taken for medical examination or testing or self-isolate.
    - Disinfect the area where child was.
    - Refer those persons who may be at risk for screening and take any other appropriate measure to prevent possible transmission.
    - Inform parent or legal guardian without delay.
- If a person has been diagnosed with Covid and isolated in accordance with the Department of Health guidelines, an ECD centre can allow the return of this person/child, if the person has:
  - Undergone a medical evaluation and tested negative for Covid-19; *or*
  - After a period of 10 days isolation no longer shows any symptoms.

## Masks – Very Important

- Children aged 24 months or younger must not wear a mask.
- Children 2-5 years *“must be encouraged to wear a mask”*.
- Children 6 years and up and all adults must wear a mask correctly at all times.

## Record-Keeping

The following records must be kept:

- Children’s information (full name; date of birth, information for at least one contactable parent or legal guardian)
- Attendance register of children
- Attendance register of staff
- Orientation and training register of staff (for the informal training/discussions done at the centre to prepare all staff members for re-opening and how to comply with the health and safety regulations – NB this is not training done by an external training)
- Record of reasons for absenteeism of staff and children
- Record of daily screening for each child and staff member
- Record of health details of a child which must include health information regarding screening, testing, quarantine, illness and hospitalization, where applicable, for Covid-19.