



25th May, 2023

Dear Shine Bright Families,

It is timely as we approach winter with increasing levels of colds, flu and COVID-19 infections, that we remind everyone in our service communities about the current settings with regards to children, staff and others who have reason to enter Shine Bright services.

The current government advice is:

Staff and children who have symptoms of COVID-19 (such as fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or a runny nose) are strongly recommended to stay home and test for COVID-19.

Rapid Antigen Test are available for all Victorians from Council sites. People can get 2 free packs (10 tests) for themselves and 2 free packs (10 tests) for each of their household members. People with disability and their carers can get up to 4 free packs (20 tests) in line with existing RAT distribution for people with disability.

Further information can be obtained at [Council Rapid Antigen Test Program](#)

Our priority is to ensure, as much as possible, that services protect the health of children and staff from colds, flu and COVID-19 infection. We understand that at times families may be inconvenienced when a child is prevented from attending or remaining in a service due to being unwell. However, in keeping illnesses out of our services, as much as possible, we are more likely to reduce the need to shut services due to a lack of staff. Nonetheless, as we move deeper into winter with an increasing likelihood of staff absences, our ability to keep services open at all times will be more difficult. We ask for your understanding should the last resort of closing a service become necessary.

Kind Regards

Karl Dadds
People and Culture Manager

Belinda Schultz
Early Years Manager