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## NEW TOOLKIT

# Bushfire smoke and your health



## It's planned burn season

Smoke reduces air quality and affects people's health. Victoria experiences bushfires every year during the warmer months; and where there's fire there's smoke.

The [Smoke and your health toolkit](#) includes communications resources that can be used to promote smoke and health information to your community over the summer and during the planned burns season commencing shortly.



## Why promote smoke and your health?

People with heart and lung conditions (including asthma), children, pregnant women and older people are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke. Children are more sensitive to smoke because they are more likely to be active outdoors, their respiratory systems are still developing, and they breathe more air per body weight than adults.

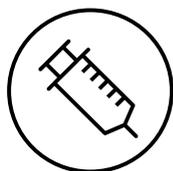
By educating staff, families and the service community about smoke and health, Victorians will be better prepared to protect their health from smoke exposure during a smoke event such as a bushfire, planned burns or other fire where smoke affects the air quality.



## What's in the toolkit?

This [toolkit includes resources](#) that can be used for your communications for promoting smoke and health information to your service community over the summer:

- promotional posters
- Bushfire smoke and your health factsheet
- sample articles for early childhood service newsletters
- links to videos and animations
- graphic information sheets.



## Checklist for No Jab, No Play requirements

When you confirm a child's enrolment, there are a few things that are required under the No Jab, No Play requirements.

### What is required?

A copy of child's immunisation status certificate that demonstrates the child is:

- fully immunised for their age; or
- on a recognised catch-up schedule; or
- unable to be fully immunised for medical reasons.

The [Immunisation enrolment toolkit](#) has information on what to look for in an immunisation status certificate..

### Need more information?

If you have completed the checklist and are still unsure if the documentation provided meets requirements, contact the Department of Health and Human Services Immunisation Section on 1300 882 008 (Monday to Friday from 9am to midday and 2pm to 3pm).

### Exemption criteria

If an immunisation status certificate is not provided, a child's enrolment may be confirmed if they meet the exemption criteria. A copy of the completed grace period eligibility assessment form should be kept as part of the child's enrolment record. This form is available in the Immunisation enrolment toolkit (section 7).



### Supporting parents

Information to support parents enrolling in early childhood services is available on the [Better Health Channel](#). Videos supporting the Immunisation Immunity for the Community campaign are also available.

## Family day care at an approved venue



Family day care can be provided at an approved venue in some circumstances. These are covered under [regulation 175\(e\) of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#).

An approved provider [must notify us within seven days](#) if they approve a family day care venue. You can do this by completing form SA12 on NQA ITS.

You must conduct an assessment (including a risk assessment) of each residence and approved family day care venue. You must do this before education and care is provided to children. You must conduct an assessment at least once a year, to ensure that the health, safety and wellbeing of children is protected.

If you would like help or guidance about operating a family day care at an approved venue, please contact us on 1300 307 415 or by email to [licensed.childrens.services@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:licensed.childrens.services@edumail.vic.gov.au).

UPCOMING  
ACCM  
CONFERENCE

## Tots and Tech: challenges for early childhood in a digital age



Our colleagues at the [Australian Council on Children and the Media](#) are offering a conference next month.

**Friday 5th May, 2017, 9am-4:30pm**  
**242 Telstra Conference Centre, 242 Exhibition Street, Melbourne**

The conference will explore the potential benefits and downsides of media and technology use in early childhood and ask:

- What role can technology play in helping children develop well? in promoting creativity? in supporting learning?
- What are the potential impacts on relationships?
- Are there problem levels of use?

For more information visit [the conference website](#).



## Get out, get active with Premier's Active April

[Premier's Active April](#) is part of the Victorian Government's commitment to promote healthy and active lifestyles and get Victorians to join in the fun of increased physical activity. Last year over 104,000 Victorians participated!

Premier's Active April encourages all Victorians to do 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April. Register today and you can enjoy the benefits that come from increased physical activity during April and beyond.

You can join Active April as:

- an individual
- a workplace
- a school
- a team

Registering is optional, but participants in Active April can be eligible for [prizes and special offers](#) like complimentary visits to a local YMCA or recreational facility.



### Nature Play Week - 12-23 April

This year's Nature Play week is coming up soon. [Check out the calendar of activities](#) and [list of resources](#) for ideas to incorporate nature play into your program's offerings.

The Royal Botanical Gardens has a [list of activities](#) for kids to do at the Melbourne and Cranbourne gardens and 25 ideas for kids anywhere in the state – perfect for school holidays!

# Effective hand hygiene



Education and care services must ensure that all staff follow adequate health and hygiene practices.

**Maintaining adequate hygiene does not always mean that you should wear gloves.**

The most effective method of keeping your hands clean is soap and water. If you can see that your hands are dirty, this is the best way of cleaning your hands.

If there is a chance that you may touch any bodily fluid (faeces, urine, saliva, etc), you should wear disposable gloves.

If you do come in contact with body fluids but gloves are not available, it is important to thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water as soon as you can.

Wearing gloves does not replace the need to wash your hands. You should ensure that you wash your hands before putting gloves on and after taking them off.

Keep in mind that some children are allergic to latex. If any children or staff at your service have a latex allergy, check out other options for gloves. Some gloves on the market are biodegradable.

For more information, look at the: [Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services \(5th Edition\)](#) resource guide.

The legislative requirement is under [section 77 of the Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011](#).

## CONTACTS

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