

Subject: Maples Covid-19 Update – Open to Permitted Workers Only

Dear families,

We apologise for the confusion over the weekend as we attempted to keep up with the government changes around the new Victorian permit system for childcare use.

Originally, we were advised that we required only **one** permitted worker per household to access childcare. The government then sent us notification that we require **all** guardians in the household to have a permit. Then last night the rules reverted to **one** permit per household.

With every change to the permit system rules, we created a survey to understand which families will be sending their children to care.

**Unfortunately, with this new rule change, we need to start the survey again. We apologise for this inconvenience.**

**All families must update us on your attendance here:** <https://eel.com.au/parents-permitted-workers-survey/>

We understand many families have emailed us their permits and notification they will be sending their children. We ask that all families complete this new survey, regardless of any completed survey or emails sent. However, if you have sent us your permit, you do not need to resend another copy of the permit.

We remind families that we are also accepting vulnerable children. Please speak to your centre Director if you feel your child is vulnerable and they will go through an approval process.

## **FAQs**

We expect families will have questions about how these latest restrictions will affect the provision of childcare, so we have put together the following FAQs.

### **Do I need to provide a permit to Maples if I am a permitted worker and my child is attending childcare?**

Yes, any child that will be attending the service will require a permit for both guardians. For single guardian households, only one permit is required.

Emergency Service personal can provide a copy of their identification card to supplement the permit requirement.

If you believe your child is classified as a vulnerable child, please speak with the Centre Director

**Do all families need to provide a workers permit?**

Some people are not required to carry a permit under the scheme, including certain emergency services, public safety and health workers.

These people can use their photographic personal identification from their place of work as evidence of their permitted worker status.

To see the list of who is exempt, please look at the exemptions section on this Victorian Government website: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-permit>

**Where can I access a permit?**

Please click here: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/authorised-provider-and-authorised-worker-permit> to access the permit template.

**I have already emailed my workers permit; do I need to resubmit the workers permit on the survey?**

Please complete the survey again. However, you do not need to submit another copy of the permit.

**If I notify you that I will be sending my child, and then decide to keep my child home, will the gap fee be waived?**

Once we are notified your child is attending, full fees will apply regardless of whether your child attends.

**Will fees be charged if I don't attend?**

No, we will waive the full gap, otherwise known as the out-of-pocket cost to families effective from Tuesday 24 August 2021. This means families do not have to cancel their enrolment with Maples.

This will be reviewed each week if your situation changes, and a permit is provided to the centre.

**Do I need to get a temperature check on entering the Centre?**

Yes, you will need to get a temperature check when you enter our Centre, using our temperature check kiosk. Please ensure you print the temperature check sticker and wear it through the Centre.

**Do I need to wear a mask in the Centre?**

Yes, all families must wear a mask at the Centre.

**Do children need to wear a mask in the Centre?**

Children under age 12 are not required to wear a mask.

**Will staff be wearing masks?**

Yes, all staff will be wearing a mask.

**What are we doing to protect our community?**

- We are bringing back the temperature check stickers. No-one is allowed to enter the Centre unless they are wearing a temperature check sticker.
- Families must wear masks at the Centre.
- Hand sanitiser is available through the Centre. We ask that families sanitise their hands before entering.
- As always, sick children or staff are not permitted to attend the Centre.

We will keep you updated once we hear more from the Victorian Government. If you have any additional questions, please visit our website, email [mernda@maplesearlylearning.cm.au](mailto:mernda@maplesearlylearning.cm.au) or contact our friendly team on 03 7020 1447.

Thank you for your support. Please stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Jarrod Macdonald

General Manager – Operations