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ESSENTIAL WORKERS CHILDCARE FAQ'S

What are the health and safety requirements of this service?

All providers and employees must continue to meet their requirements under New Zealand Health and Safety Legislation. Additionally, all providers must comply with the **Public health requirements for childcare arrangements for children of essential workers**.

It will be Kidsbase responsibility to ensure the right people are selected for this service and they're able to manage their own health and safety requirements.

Can the services be provided in the home of the OSCAR employee?

No. These services are to be delivered in the home of the essential workers. Children are not to be taken to other residences and must be managed according to the **Public health requirements for childcare arrangements for children of essential workers**

What is the carer to child ratio?

No more than 8 children per one carer. No other children outside of the immediate residency are to be cared for. This protects the integrity of the family bubble, reducing chances of transmission.

Can carers look after multiple families?

No. Only one career per family/residence. This will protect against infection between families of essential workers.

Are these services the preferred option?

Where possible, essential workers need to make their own arrangements for childcare, eg the partner of the essential worker.

What are the hours of care?

Providers, employees and parents will need to negotiate these hours.

What about first aid?

Providers should prioritise carers who have first aid qualifications to ensure best possible service.

Can these services be provided at the local school or my OSCAR premises?

No. New Zealand is at Alert Level 4 – this means, schools and OSCAR premises are closed. These services must be delivered in the home of the essential worker.

Can staff stay overnight? This is a decision to be agreed between the provider, employee and parents.

Is it that staff are required to be in their essential worker's home over the whole duration for the four-week period, so they do not contaminate their own self-isolating family group?

No. It's not expected for carers to stay with the essential worker's home for four weeks. Carers may travel between their home and the essential worker's home.

Can Kidsbase provide protective equipment, including sanitiser?

No. This will need to be sourced by the family.

What if a child makes an accusation of misconduct?

Providers apply the same processes they have in place for any current allegations of misconduct. It is recognised that not having a second staff member present means it is more difficult to clearly establish misconduct or not.

Public health requirements for childcare arrangements for children of essential workers

New Zealand is currently at COVID-19 Alert Level 4. A key aspect of this is staying at home. The goal of staying at home is to limit contact with others, in order to reduce the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19. It is recognised that this is not possible for our essential workers, and childcare for children of these workers is an important requirement to enable a continued COVID-19 response.

Key public health principles of our current COVID-19 response include:

- Limiting contact to those within a household unit
- Maintaining physical distancing of **at least 1 metre, preferably 2 metres** when interacting with **others** at all times.
- Maintaining good hygiene practices (for example cough and sneeze etiquette, hand hygiene)
- Maintaining good cleaning practices
- Not sharing food, drinks or eating utensils (for example, use of individual drink bottles)

Further info can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/how-were-uniting/>

Care at home arrangements involve a single carer (for example, a nanny) coming into a household unit to care for a child/children. In this case, the carer effectively becomes part of the household's self-isolating family group.

Please note: For in-home care arrangements with one caregiver working with one family unit (in the child's home), then the 'at least 1 metre, ideally 2m metres' physical distancing is not required. In this scenario the 'bubble' is expanded to include both households involved in the care arrangement.