

COVID-19 OUT OF HOME CARE – ACTIVE SERVICE ALERT

The Department of Communities Tasmania – Child Safety Service has activated its business continuity plan to limit the potential impacts of the Coronavirus.

As always, the highest priority of Children and Youth Services is the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and their families, carers and our staff.

We continue to adopt hygiene and social distancing measures. This means:

- All travel overseas and non-essential interstate travel for children under the custody and guardianship of the Communities Tasmania is suspended.
- Child Safety Officers will minimise non-essential face-to-face contact between children and their families.
- All care households are strongly encouraged to implement specific hygiene and social distancing measures such as limiting visitors to your household and providing children and young people with fact information to help them feel more informed.

The Child Safety Service has requested service providers to actively promote good hygiene and social distancing with their clients and staff.

Information to support conversations with children and young people in care:

- For younger children, consider using this booklet to assess their current understanding and feelings.
- The Australian Childhood Foundation has made this visual poster about staying connected with our children.
- UNICEF has published easy-to-follow information for adults who need to talk to children and young people about Coronavirus.
- The federal Department of Health shared this video about talking to children about Coronavirus from the Child Mind Institute.
- The World Health Organisation has a useful fact sheet about helping children cope with stress during the outbreak.
- The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry has guidelines about how to talk to children about public health emergencies.



Please direct any questions or requests for further information to cys.businesscontinuity@communities.tas.gov.au

For up-to-date information on the coronavirus (COVID-19) visit:

- [Tasmanian Government Coronavirus website](#)
- [Australian Government Department of Health website](#)
- Coronavirus Health Information Line 1800 020 080.