



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Guidance for Social Service Providers

Subsector Guidelines - OSCAR

(to be read in conjunction with general
COVID-19 provider guidance)

Purpose

OSCAR is the Out of School Care and Recreation service. The Ministry of Social Development (MSD/The Ministry) provides the OSCAR subsidy and OSCAR provider grant. The Ministry assists the OSCAR providers by offering legislative and contractual support. This Covid-19 Sector Guidance update is to advise OSCAR providers on the latest updates to ensure they continue to operate safely within the Covid-19 context.

Background

Covid-19 started in March 2020 putting Aotearoa into a “Level 4” lockdown. In December 2021 Aotearoa New Zealand moved to the COVID-19 Protection Framework. This Framework introduced a three-tier system known as the “Traffic Light System”. The Protection Framework was removed on 12 September 2022.

Introduction

These Subsector Guidelines provide OSCAR providers with more information around the delivery of OSCAR programmes.

It has been prepared by Manatū Whakahiato Ora | the Ministry of Social Development in consultation with Te Manatū Hauora | the Ministry of Health.

As the COVID-19 situation changes, these guidelines may be amended or revised.

Covid-19 guidance going forward

Masks

For OSCAR providers masks are no longer required except in the following situations

- when working with disabled children and immuno-compromised children
- when transporting children in a vehicle.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are not required.

Gathering Limits

There are no limits to gatherings under the OSCAR advice. However, the standard OSCAR adult-to-children ratios and centre health and safety limits apply.

Record keeping

There is no requirement to scan in or for a business to display a QR code poster or have mandatory record-keeping

Isolation

If a child or staff member test positive for Covid-19 the person is required to isolate for seven days.

Household contacts do not have to isolate however they need to complete a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) every day for five days. So long as they test negative, they will be able to go about daily life as normal.

Ministry of Education

MOE (Ministry of Education) offers advice as it relates to COVID-19 within schools and ECE centres. However, the operational guidance of OSCAR will continue to come from MSD.

[MOE Covid-19 advice](#)

Other Information

You can see more information on COVID-19 on the following link

[Next phase of our COVID-19 response | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)

Links relating to OSCAR

These are the regulations for the OSCAR:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/children/childcare.html>

[Social Security \(COVID-19—Childcare Assistance\) Amendment Regulations 2020 \(LI 2020/223\) 4 Regulation 28 amended \(Payment of assistance during child's absence\) – New Zealand Legislation](#)