



Supporting parents  
& families & the  
ELC and SAC sector

***Message from our County Childcare Coordinator Irene Cafferky***

Roscommon County Childcare Committee CLG would like to remind all parents and services that we are available to support you with queries. You can contact a member of the team via email, calling their mobile or calling our office on the contact details below. As always, we welcome any feedback on our communication with you and if you need to have something clarified or discussed in more detail, then please contact a member of our staff team.

We aim to reach as wide an audience as possible and would be grateful if you could distribute this to each member of your staff teams and place on your bulletin/information board for sharing of information or indeed through your social media. We hope you enjoy this bulletin and find it informative and beneficial.

*Kind Regards,*

*Irene Cafferky, County Childcare Coordinator/Manager and Roscommon CCC Staff Team Carmel, Sinead, Aine & Martina*



All updates and our weekly newsletter/bulletin from us to your service will now come from our [info@roscommonchildcare.ie](mailto:info@roscommonchildcare.ie) address. Your assigned development officer will also keep in regular contact with your service for any support needs.



Visit our website at <https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/> Roscommon CCC has uploaded a variety of useful resources for services and parents on our resource page on our website.



<https://www.facebook.com/roscommonchildcare/> where we will continue to post relevant information for our sector as the central local information hub for the ECCE sector in County Roscommon.



Jobs Board

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON ROSCOMMON CCC WEBSITE**

Roscommon CCC Jobs board is updated regularly check it out here:  
<https://www.roscommonchildcare.ie/jobs-board/>





## Ask The Team - Roscommon CCC Team answering queries as they arise for the sector.



### ASK THE TEAM



**Q. I have AIM level 7 support and also avail of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme. What do I need to do to show the AIM person is being paid from AIM support not EWSS ?**

**A.** Where a service is in receipt of AIM Level 7 additional assistance funding, the service consents to making available payroll statements for the purpose of compliance checks to confirm that funding from the EWSS is not being used to support the wages of an employee whose wages are being supported through AIM Level 7 funding. Where a service is found to be non-compliant with rule 3.3, AIM funding will be suspended until such time as

- a) Proof of corrections to EWSS funding in relation to the relevant employee is provided; and
- b) AIM funding for the period of double funding is reconciled.



An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth



**DEADLINES/IMPORTANT DATES:** Here are the deadlines, important dates, and announcements for the week of 29 November – 03 December 2021.



### Memo to Sector re Mask-Wearing

In line with the Interim Guidance issued on 30th November by the Government and NPHET, a memo was sent to Early Learning and Care (ELC) and School-Age Childcare (SAC) Providers, including Childminders on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021.

- There is no change in the public health guidance on adults wearing masks in ELC/SAC settings.
- It has been advised that children 9 years of age and older should wear face masks/coverings when it does not interfere with their care and active engagement.
- On this basis, the use of face masks/coverings for children 9 years of age and older in ELC/SAC settings is not mandatory but advised. Settings will have to use their professional judgement in relation to the guidance in consultation with parents.



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Disclaimer: Please note the information in these bulletins is based on official communications from DCEDIY and Pobal as well as notices on PIP. However, information is subject to change from week to week so please check our most recent bulletin for the most up to date information. This bulletin should not replace checking PIP & HIVE- it is merely a reminder of important deadlines and information from Roscommon CCC.

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- During transport to and from ELC and SAC services, face masks/coverings should be worn by children over 9 years of age where this is not a barrier to communication with the driver or those caring for them.

We have attached the Memo for your convenience.

### **Covid quick guides**

The Isolation Quick Guides for Children aged 3 months to 13 years and the one for adults and children over 13 years of age were updated on the 30 November, we have attached them to this email for your convenience.

### **HSE Public Health Update**

The HSE issued a Public Health Update on 26 November to remind all staff and service users of the key measures required to keep services open and to reduce the risk of spread of infection. We have attached the memo for your convenience.

### **Better Start Quality Development Service-Webinar 8 December 3pm-4pm**



**Would you like a mentor to work with your setting on Quality Development?** Join Better Start online on December 8th from 3pm to 4pm to learn about the mentoring options available to you and your team through the Quality Development Service. Register for the webinar: [here](https://www.betterstart.ie). If you require any additional information, please contact [quality@betterstart.ie](mailto:quality@betterstart.ie).

### **Force Majeure**

Providers can apply to Pobal for force majeure funding regarding the closure of the full service. Force majeure applications are considered on a case by case basis and are granted when a service closes due to circumstances outside of its control e.g. power blackout, flooding or severe weather warning. Force majeure may also be given for health-related issues if a service is directed to close by Public Health.

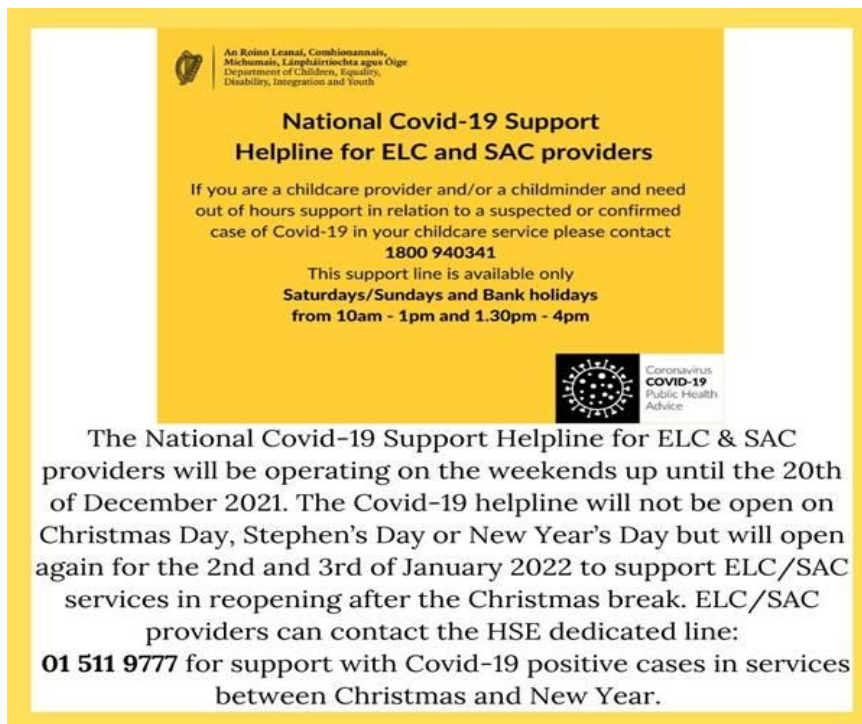
Where a service has an outbreak of Covid-19 but is not directed to close by Public Health there is no automatic right to force majeure funding. **However**, if a service is unable to operate due to a reduction of staff numbers due to Covid-19, whether staff are Covid-19 positive or are awaiting testing, the service can apply to Pobal for force majeure funding. A service must provide evidence of why staff cannot attend work, such as correspondence from the HSE.

If a service is required to close a pod or a room, force majeure does not apply. In this case services can continue to receive programme funding for children who are absent for up to 4 weeks. Force majeure permission will not be given where a service decides to close due to Covid-19 concerns, whether by decision of a Board of Management or by decision by an owner/operator, and where there is no direction to close by public health.





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**National Covid-19 Support  
Helpline for ELC and SAC providers**

If you are a childcare provider and/or a childminder and need out of hours support in relation to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 in your childcare service please contact  
**1800 940341**

This support line is available only  
**Saturdays/Sundays and Bank holidays  
from 10am - 1pm and 1.30pm - 4pm**

The National Covid-19 Support Helpline for ELC & SAC providers will be operating on the weekends up until the 20th of December 2021. The Covid-19 helpline will not be open on Christmas Day, Stephen's Day or New Year's Day but will open again for the 2nd and 3rd of January 2022 to support ELC/SAC services in reopening after the Christmas break. ELC/SAC providers can contact the HSE dedicated line: **01 511 9777** for support with Covid-19 positive cases in services between Christmas and New Year.

### Learner Fund Bursary 2021.

- The 2021 Learner Fund closing date has been extended to **31/12/2021**. All eligible candidates who have received a Level 7/8/9 qualification before this date can apply for the Bursary. Please contact RCCC for further details if you feel that you may meet the criteria.

### **FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

#### Subsidised closure days

Services who have an NCS contract are entitled to 10 subsidised closure days.

Section 8.2 page 47 NCS guidelines set out that 'a service provider will be paid for 10 closed days, excluding bank holidays, in a contract period.'

These days may of use to you, if you are planning on closing over the Christmas period or during the summer.

To avail of them, you need to outline what days are 'subsidised closures' on your calendar. The video on the portal under 'NCS guides', 'NCS Service Calendar' shows how to create your calendar and add the subsidised closures.

#### Little library book bags

The second phase of the Little Library book bags was launched on 19 November. These book backs are available to all Tusla registered ELC and SAC services. You should have been contacted by your local library to tell you there is a bag waiting for you to collect.







### **Covid Case Support Helpline**

The HSE helpline to advise service providers if they have been informed of a Covid-19 case in a child or a staff member will remain active for a short, transition period, following the changes to contact tracing for children. The number is 01 511 9777.

For those services who need support on engaging with the relevant authorities due to a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, there is an **out of hours** helpline. The number is 1800 940 341. The service will be available Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays from 10.00 – 13.00 and 13.30 – 16.00.

### **Tusla's Signs of Safety eLearning Programme is now available.**

Tusla has developed a child protection e-learning briefing programme for professionals working with children and families in the community. It has been developed to support professionals in making referrals or reporting concerns to Tusla. It will introduce professionals to Tusla's National Approach to Practice – Signs of Safety and explain how this is applied at each stage of our work with children and families- reporting, assessment, and intervention.

The briefing will cover the principles and key components of the approach and detail how Signs of Safety is applied at every stage of Child Protection and Welfare Work. Through a true to life case study, the viewer is guided through what they can expect as a referrer when they report a concern, the kinds of questions they may be asked and how each stage is linked to safety planning.

<https://www.tusla.ie/signs-of-safety/>

### **Túsla Always Children First Training 2022**

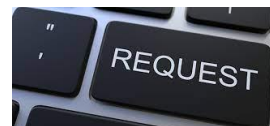
Roscommon CCC will be delivering the Tusla Always Children First Foundation level (one day programme) again in 2022, which is required by those working in services who have not completed it previously or whose foundation certificate is 2018 or older and therefore out of date. IF you are a DLP/Deputy DLP and your certification is out of date or if you have yet to complete this course let us know and we will place you on our waiting list. Priority will be given to DLPs/Deputy DLPs that have no current in date certificate. It is also a requirement that you have completed your Tusla eLearning programme prior to attendance, to access this online programme please click this link

<https://www.tusla.ie/children-first/children-first-e-learning-programme/>



## Service Request Categorisation Update on the Early Years Hive

The options available in the 'Create New Service Request' page on the Early Years Hive have been reviewed and a number of improvements will be implemented on Thursday November. The updated options will be available after the scheduled maintenance is complete. The sequence of fields to be completed in a Service Request will change to the following order:



4th

Old Sequence	New Sequence
Request Category	Programme
Request Subcategory	Request Type
Programme	Request Type Detail

Please see the attached guide [here](#) for more detail.



### Aistear consultation

Phase 1 of the consultation on [Aistear: the Early Childhood Curriculum Framework](#), is underway and there are a number of ways for you to get involved. Click on the link below for more details: <https://ncca.ie/en/updates-and-events/latest-news/2021/october/updating-aistear/>

We ask that if you need to contact a member of our team that you now use the contact details as outlined below.

Roscommon CCC Staff Name	Contact Details
Martina Towey (Administrator)	 <a href="mailto:martina.towey@roscommonchildcare.ie">martina.towey@roscommonchildcare.ie</a>  0949622750 and press for <b>extension 1</b> .  Mobile: 087 0629894
Carmel Dunne (Development Officer)	 <a href="mailto:carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie">carmel.dunne@roscommonchildcare.ie</a>  0949622540 and press for <b>extension 2</b> .  Mobile: 087 774405
Sinéad Mc Quaid (Development Officer)	 <a href="mailto:sinead.mcquaid@roscommonchildcare.ie">sinead.mcquaid@roscommonchildcare.ie</a>  0949622540 and press for <b>extension 3</b> .  Mobile: 087 7744406
Aine Mannion (Development Officer)	 <a href="mailto:aine.mannion@roscommonchildcare.ie">aine.mannion@roscommonchildcare.ie</a>  0949622540 and press for <b>extension 4</b> .  Mobile: 087 774404
Irene Cafferky (County Childcare Coordinator/Manager)	 <a href="mailto:irene.cafferky@roscommonchildcare.ie">irene.cafferky@roscommonchildcare.ie</a>  0949622540 and press for <b>extension 5</b> .  Mobile: 0866039606



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