Dear Families,

You may be aware of the snap lockdown recently announced for Canberra as of 5 pm today. Childcare is viewed as an essential service and will be open to essential worker’s children only (or for emergency reasons). An essential worker is anyone that still needs to attend their work premises to be able to perform their duties, anyone who can work from home is not an essential worker.

To protect the children that need to attend and our educators we will ask you to not enter the building. Adults are required to wear masks at all times. There will be a sign-in station out the front and educators will bring your child and their belongings to meet you. Waiting time will be reduced if you please send us a text 10 minutes before your arrival on:

**Mobile Number: 0434435101**

As we know the delta strain is more infections to younger age groups. The government deems Early Childhood Educators as “essential workers” but unfortunately does not allow any of our workers to be prioritized for Covid vaccination. So please be aware that the majority of our educators are still waiting to be vaccinated with the rest of Canberra’s younger population.

If you are an essential worker, can you please notify us via email. This will allow us to ensure staff numbers are covered for the next 7 days (and longer if needed). This is important so we can get staffing arrangements covered, as we are looking at releasing our casuals and allowing flexible working arrangements for some of our educators.

Regarding billing during this time. Regular billing will continue during this time; however, your allowable absent days will not be affected by forced lockdowns. These seven days will be added at the end if you reach your 42 allowable absences.

If you are at home for the next 7 days, we encourage you to access our google classroom.

There is a range of great ideas and educational videos to access. Access google classroom with the link and password below, click on classwork and choose from a large list of activities (even some exercise workouts for adults). Please note that these sessions were created last year during the lockdown. We are keen to put up some new content but while you’re waiting, please enjoy the previous activities. We recommend checking out some of the hygiene and health-related books, experiment suggestions and health-related songs to keep everyone safe and increase understanding about health and hygiene. We hope you enjoy seeing some old/familiar faces.

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NjUzNzA3OTY3Nzha?cjc=wui4rs7>

password: **wui4rs7**

Kind Regards,

**Vicki McDonald**
Heritage Early Childhood Centre

[www.heritageecc.com.au](http://www.heritageecc.com.au/)

(02) 62498851

*As per Heritage’s social media policy, please respect all family’s confidentiality and do not post photos on social media. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.*

***Heritage Early Childhood recognise that teaching & learning have continued to take place on the land on which our centre stands for many thousands of years & we are honoured to continue that tradition. We pay our respect to Elders past and present & acknowledge the Ngoonawal People, as the Traditional Custodians of the land.***