

25 January 2022

I wanted to touch base with playgroups prior to the start of the term. Like me, I am sure you have been thinking a lot about how the current issues with COVID-19 including vaccination requirements, will impact on your playgroup and members.

Playgroup WA's role is to provide information and support to playgroups. Playgroup WA has always supported WA Health Department policy on vaccinations and has adopted a mandatory vaccination policy for our staff in relation to Covid-19. However, we cannot make or enforce policy decisions about how each playgroup operates. Decisions about who joins a particular playgroup and the way that individual playgroups operate are the responsibility of individual playgroups and is often connected to the costs and type of venues that playgroups use.

While playgroups are not specifically named in any of the current State Government health directions, the venues that playgroups use could be subject to restrictions placed on them by the venue owners/managers. We will continue to update our resources as these directions change. We have already heard that some local government venues are requiring attendees be vaccinated and expect this to become more common. Under these circumstances we strongly recommend that playgroups check with their venue owners as they may have some requirements around COVID-19 vaccinations. If venue owners don't require users to be vaccinated to use the venue, your playgroup may wish to discuss what you want to happen in your playgroup, just as you would for any other policy or procedural issue. As you are no doubt aware, there are lots of diverse opinions about COVID-19 vaccinations which may challenge you and your members.

***Transparent decision making and clear communication will be key to helping make this process easier for everyone.***

If your playgroup does make a decision that members will need to be vaccinated to attend sessions, you will need to consider a number of issues such as:

- what level of vaccination will your playgroup require (2 or 3 doses)?
- how you will manage this (for example sighting evidence on commencement), who will check and monitor proof of vaccination?
- how will you communicate any decisions to members?

We also recommend that you review your current hygiene and cleaning routines and processes to ensure that you minimise the risk of cross infection eg use of sanitiser, regular hand washing, cleaning toys regularly. [Here](#) are some resources you may find helpful.

Your Playgroup Development Officer can assist and support you in working through these and other playgroup issues and I encourage you to touch base with us if you need information, ideas, practical tips or other support, or even if you just want to share something with us. We would love to hear from you. You can find out about your Playgroup Development Officer [here](#).

For enquiries about membership issues including accessing or using the on-line Membership Portal, please [email us](#) or phone us on 1800 171 882.

Many Thanks  
David Zarb  
Chief Executive Officer