

Monday 25th May

COVID-19 Update

Hi to our playgroup community,

As you will have heard the Victorian Government announced a further easing of restrictions from 1 June. This is great for families who will now be able to catch up again. While the restrictions have been eased there are a number of things we need to consider before going back to playgroup.

What do these changes mean for your playgroup?

While the number of people that may gather has been increased to 20, there are restrictions on how the gathering can take place. They include:

- If meeting inside, there needs to be four square meters of space for each person, including children. That means for 20 people the space inside needs to be 80 square meters. That's a room eight meters wide by 10 meters long- around 24 by 30 feet in the old scale.
- If you meet in a council building it is going to take time for the council to work out how many people can meet in the different spaces
- The 20 people include children, so that may mean not everyone from the playgroup can meet yet

The Department of Health and Human Services has been keeping everyone up-to-date on their dedicated website. [Find more information here](#)

We have been providing a range of free activities on our [Playgroup at Home Facebook community group](#) and our [website](#).

We are currently putting together a guide for playgroups that will assist you with protocols and procedures for maintaining hygiene and social distancing when you meet. This will include some activity ideas. We will let you know as soon as it is ready.

Our playgroup usually meets outside so could we start meeting again after June 1?

While 20 people can meet outside, remember this includes children. The adults in the group need to maintain social distancing. That means if you were sitting in a group each person would need to be on their own picnic blanket to maintain at least a 1.5 metre distance. While there is no expectation that children social distance, you will need to think about how you are social distancing from someone else's child.

When should playgroup recommence?

We understand you have been waiting for this. At the moment we think it is a good idea to get ready for the possibility of starting playgroup again at the beginning of Term 3. This will allow time for councils to get organised so that everyone knows how many people can meet in their spaces at one time. This will need to

include how the spaces are cleaned prior to and after each group meets and what the expectations are on the group to clean.

It will mean that the number of people who can gather may have increased sufficiently to allow everyone in your playgroup to meet.

We also understand that not everyone will feel comfortable meeting straight away. By planning for the start of term 3 it will allow time to have everything in place so people feel that all measures are in place to keep everyone safe.

Remember we are continuing to provide you with a range of activities, activity booklet's and online experiences. We also have a fantastic live and interactive *All Come Out To Play* ZOOM session you can join. [Sign up here](#)

All Come Out to Play is funded by Gandel Philanthropy and the Free from Violence Innovation Fund, Office for Women, Department of Premier and Cabinet. This project is a partnership with drummond street services, Hullabaloo Music for All and Playgroup Victoria. Learn more [here](#)

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been contributing amazing ideas and providing support to each other. You have all done brilliantly. We look forward to providing more updates and as always are happy to answer any questions you may have.

With thanks

Danny Schwarz
Playgroup Victoria CEO