

Playgroups and Covid-19 Vaccinations

Playgroup Victoria's Statement

Playgroup Victoria supports the Federal and State Government's work in rolling out the Covid-19 vaccinations. We encourage anyone who is eligible and can, to get vaccinated.

The State Government has implemented several vaccination mandates. In some cases, these mandates include participation in playgroup. The reasons these mandates have been implemented are based on the risk of catching Covid-19 and the impact to your health and that of the community. We know that the risks are reduced for those who are vaccinated. We know that the risks of becoming seriously unwell and requiring hospitalisation are significantly greater for those who have not been vaccinated.



Who needs to be vaccinated at playgroup?

All staff and volunteers who attend playgroup without children.

Here is a link to the Victorian Government's worker vaccination requirements:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/worker-vaccination-requirements

Can a venue require us to be vaccinated?

Yes.

Can we tell people who are not vaccinated that they cannot attend?

Yes.

Excluding anyone on the basis of immunisation status will not always lead to a complaint of discrimination. A discrimination complaint could only be raised where the reason for not being vaccinated relates to a personal characteristic protected by the Act. For example, where a religion prohibits vaccination, or where a disability prevents a person from receiving a vaccination. If the reason behind not being vaccinated is personal choice, then a complaint of discrimination could not be made as 'personal choice' is not protected by the Act. - Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission

Each group can make a collective decision about the Covid-19 vaccination. However, if your playgroup meets at a community facility, the playgroup must cooperate with the community facilities requirements. Please contact your local community facility for further information about their vaccination policy.

What should we do if someone attends playgroup and tests positive for Covid-19?

The State Government has a Covid Checklist for your reference:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/checklist

You need to report your result and immediately isolate for seven days. Tell everyone who was at Playgroup with you. They should monitor for any symptoms.

Follow the directions of the health authorities regarding quarantining after a test, including how long people should stay home even if the test is negative.



“The Equal Opportunity Act prohibits discrimination in certain areas of life, including employment and the provision of goods and services, based on protected attributes such as disability or religious belief or activity. Vaccination status is not a protected attribute under the Equal Opportunity Act. This means that discrimination law doesn’t offer protection for everyone who chooses not to get vaccinated, only for people who have one of the other protected attributes in the Equal Opportunity Act.”

- Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission