

# Playgroups and Covid-19 Vaccinations

## Playgroup NT's Statement

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

The Territory 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 with or without children

### For the purpose of this vaccine mandate, you are classified as a playgroup volunteer if:

- You are a playgroup coordinator (you are the playgroup contact person)
- You are an additional contact person for your playgroup
- You are a member of your playgroup committee (President, Treasurer, Secretary, Committee Member)

### I am a playgroup volunteer, do I need to be vaccinated?

Yes, volunteers are defined as a worker, as per Section 7 (1) of the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011. For those who the CHO Direction applies, in order for volunteers to continue working in the same role, they must have their:

- First COVID-19 vaccine dose by 12 November 2021
- Second COVID-19 vaccine dose by 24 December 2021

If you're not sure if the Direction applies to you, ask yourself these three questions:

1. In my volunteer work, do I come into contact with vulnerable people?

***Vulnerable people include those who are aged under 12 years, are an Aboriginal person, at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and those who cannot be vaccinated due to severe reactions to all approved vaccines.***

2. Is my volunteer work at a higher risk of infection?
3. Does my volunteer work include infrastructure or logistics that are critical to the Territory?

If your answer is maybe, or I don't know, you need to get the COVID-19 vaccine. If your volunteer work includes interacting with members of the public, then you need to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Note:

If your playgroup meets at a community facility, the playgroup must cooperate with the community facility's 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?

- Let everyone at the playgroup know that they should get tested
- If meeting at a venue inform them at the same time
- 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.

***Proof of COVID vaccination request below:***

1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

Dear Playgroup Coordinators, Playgroup Contact Persons and Committee Members,

**RE: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement**

Following the CHO Directions outlined in COVID-19 Directions (No. 55) 2021 which took effect 13 October 2021, Playgroup NT has identified that the CHO Direction applies to Volunteer Playgroup Coordinators, Contact Persons and Committee Members.

In accordance with section 17 of the COVID-19 Directions (No. 55) 2021 we request you provide us with the following:

Circumstances	Action
I am fully vaccinated (Have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence that you are fully vaccinated by <b>12 November 2021</b>.</li> </ul>
I am partially vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence you have received the first COVID-19 vaccine; and</li> <li>Provide evidence that a booking has been made for you to receive the second COVID-19 vaccine by <b>24 December 2021</b>.</li> </ul>
I am unvaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence that a booking has been made for you to receive the first COVID-19 dose by <b>12 November 2021</b>; and</li> <li>Provide evidence that a booking has been made for you to receive the second COVID-19 vaccine by <b>24 December 2021</b>.</li> </ul>
I am exempt from having the COVID-19 vaccine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Playgroup NT will need to sight</b> your medical certificate issued by a medical practitioner that certifies you have a contraindication to all approved COVID-19 vaccines determined in accordance with the Clinical guidance on use of COVID-19 vaccine in Australia in 2021, or any successor guidelines, issued by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI); <b>or email</b></li> <li>a certificate issued by the Commonwealth that certifies you have a contraindication to all approved COVID-19 vaccines by <b>12 November 2021</b>.</li> </ul>

You can provide this evidence to us by emailing [members@playgroupnt.com.au](mailto:members@playgroupnt.com.au) marked "CONFIDENTIAL".

Playgroup NT will continue to monitor directions from the NT Government and it may be necessary for us to issue further instructions to you as the Government Directions evolve.

Please keep Playgroup NT updated with your vaccination status.

In order to ensure NT workers and volunteers can receive their vaccination in time, a number of vaccine hubs including walk up clinics, GP and pharmacy networks are available [Booking your COVID-19 vaccine | Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (nt.gov.au).

We appreciate your understanding and encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or concerns, phone 8945 7775

Yours sincerely,

Susan Wellfair  
CEO Playgroup NT