

Issued: 3 March 2021

## PLAYGROUP NSW IMMUNISATION STATEMENT

### Playgroup and Immunisation

Playgroup NSW advises parents/guardians to note:

1. Decisions about immunisation and immunising a child are wholly the responsibility of parents and guardians, therefore, any attendee at playgroup may or may not be immunised.
2. Playgroup NSW supports the NSW Public Health Act 2010, that children will not be enrolled in an education and care service unless the child is fully immunised for their age; or has a medical reason not to be immunised; or is on a recognised catch-up schedule.

### NSW Health Immunisation Programs

In an effort to improve childhood immunisation rates, the NSW Parliament passed the Public Health Amendment (Review) Bill 2017 that amended the Public Health Act 2010 to strengthen immunisation enrolment regulations in early childhood services. The NSW Public Health Act 2010 states that education and care services are required to comply with their legal responsibilities and cannot enrol a child unless the parent/guardian has provided an approved immunisation form stating that the child is fully immunised for their age, or; has a medical reason not to be vaccinated, or; is on a recognised catch up schedule if their immunisation has fallen behind.

However, these regulations do not apply to playgroups as they are not Approved Services under the Education and Care Services National Regulations and National Law.

A link to NSW Health's Immunisation Programs is available here:

[https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/vaccination\\_enrolment.aspx](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/pages/vaccination_enrolment.aspx)

### Information for playgroup coordinators

Community playgroups are affiliated with Playgroup NSW, however run by volunteer coordinators, therefore, Playgroup NSW has no power or mechanism to enforce, monitor or control immunisation of playgroup participants, and cannot guarantee whether attendees at a playgroup are immunised or not.

Playgroup NSW does not recommend playgroup coordinators attempt to record, monitor or control immunisation of attendees at playgroup, based on potential privacy and legal risk.

### Information for playgroup attendees

Playgroup NSW advises that any attendees with known infectious illnesses, visible symptoms of illness, that are feeling unwell, or have been in contact with someone exhibiting any of the aforementioned, should not attend playgroup. If a playgroup coordinator observes an attendee displaying visible signs of an infectious illness, or appearing generally unwell, they will respectfully request the attendees withdraw from the playgroup session.

**It is recommended that playgroup coordinators display this statement at playgroup for attendees to view.**