



16 March 2020

STATEMENT REGARDING SUSPENSION OF PLAYGROUP NSW PLAYGROUPS

Playgroup NSW continues to remain responsive as the situation surrounding COVID-19 develops, and we are closely monitoring the Commonwealth and State Governments' announcements and health advice relating to the virus.

The health and well-being of the communities we serve is our primary focus during this period of uncertainty, and we are actively developing contingency plans to minimise any potential spread of the virus, whilst keeping Playgroup NSW as operational as possible.

Supported and Facilitated Playgroups - Suspension

Consistent with advice to avoid non-essential gatherings of people, **we are suspending all Supported Playgroups for the remainder of the Term (up to 9 April 2020)**. This includes but is not limited to all MyTime, PlayConnect, Play Strong, Sutherland Shire, Community Visitors Scheme, Intergenerational and IAS Programs.

Community Playgroups – Recommended Suspension

Similarly, **we are recommending that volunteers running Playgroup NSW Community Playgroups suspend playgroup sessions for the remainder of the Term (up to 9 April 2020)**. Ongoing support will be provided as required, to help implement this recommendation with minimal impact. Please let Playgroup NSW know of your decision by email: admin@playgroupnsw.org.au, so that we can keep our playgroup records up to date and tailor future services and communications.

During this time, we will be reallocating our resources to support our members, volunteers, families and children by providing alternative formats to keep you connected, for those who are isolated from their usual community activities.

We are also encouraging everyone to actively apply the following health advice:

"Social Distancing" - Where Possible

Social distancing is an effective measure, but it is recognised that it cannot be practised in all situations and the aim is to generally reduce potential for transmission. While practising social distancing, people can travel to work (including public transport). For non-essential activities outside the workplace or attendance at schools, universities and childcare - social distancing includes:

✉ admin@playgroupnsw.org.au
w playgroupnsw.org.au
t 1800 171 882 or 02 9684 9500

PO Box 2229
Burwood North
NSW 2134

Level 1,
62-64 Burwood Road,
Burwood North NSW 2134

ABN No. 97 616 861 198



- avoiding crowds and mass gatherings where it is difficult to keep the appropriate distance away from others
- avoiding small gatherings in enclosed spaces, for example family celebrations
- attempting to keep a distance of 1.5 metres between themselves and other people where possible, for example when they are out and about in public place
- avoiding shaking hands, hugging, or kissing other people
- avoiding visiting vulnerable people, such as those in aged care facilities or hospitals, infants, or people with compromised immune systems due to illness or medical treatment

Practice good personal hygiene, including:

- cleaning your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand rub
- covering your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or into your elbow.

You should stay at home if:

- you are feeling unwell
- you have returned from overseas (Government restrictions mean that all people, including Australian citizens, who have been overseas and arrived from 12am on 16 March, are required to self-isolate for 14 days)
- you have been in close contact with a confirmed case of Coronavirus.

If you develop any symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, tiredness or shortness of breath) you should see a doctor for urgent assessment.

IF YOU ARE DIAGNOSED WITH THE VIRUS - PLEASE NOTIFY PLAYGROUP NSW on admin@playgroupnsw.org.au IMMEDIATELY, AS THIS WILL ALLOW US TO IMPLEMENT THE APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES, INCLUDING NOTIFYING VENUES AND FAMILIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT.

We are aiming to return to business as usual as soon as we can. In the meantime, we thank you for your continued support of our commitment to keeping everyone healthy.

Regards,



Nadene Lee
CEO
Playgroup NSW

Please note: This information is relevant as at 16 March 2020. It may change as Government and health advice is reviewed and updated.

