



# COVID 19 UPDATES & INFORMATION FOR PLAYGROUPS

As a CPN Committee we want to continue to support you and your church as you return to Playgroup sessions in this uncertain season of 2021. We want to encourage you to have well thought through protocols and procedures so people feel that measures are in place to keep everyone safe.

Playgroups work best when the most up-to-date communications is shared between attending families. There are many questions about how to prepare and what might need to be done differently at playgroup during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## WHERE SHOULD I BE GETTING ADVICE FROM WITH REGARD TO RUNNING A SAFE, HEALTHY & HAPPY PLAYGROUP AT MY CHURCH?

We suggest that the following levels of advice will need to continue to be considered:

1. Adhere to your state governments restrictions and advice. As restrictions change, the advice differs between states and territories. It is important to follow the guidelines of your local area. For information specific to you visit: [www.australia.gov.au/#state-and-territory-government-information](http://www.australia.gov.au/#state-and-territory-government-information)
2. Adhere to denominational advice for your group of churches eg. Baptist Union, Uniting, Anglican, CCCVaT
3. Adhere to advice from Playgroup Australia and its member state and territory playgroup organisations <https://playgroupaustralia.org.au/covid-19-community-playgroups/>
4. Common sense, practical considerations as to what is possible and not possible under these levels of advice in your context.

## SOME HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR YOU

The helpful resources below do not replace any official advice. They are intended to prompt you to think or ask about changes you might need to prepare for and implement so your playgroup will have the best chance to meet together safely, healthy and happily.

From [Playgroup Victoria](#), a 'Getting Back to Playgroup' booklet is full of sound advice, tools and resources, and practical ideas: [Getting Back to Playgroup – Playgroup Victoria](#).

Also on their [Playgroup Resources](#) page you can find posters, social media tiles, the Handwashing Song and other helpful tools for getting playgroup face to face happening safely.

## WHAT MIGHT PLAYGROUP LOOK LIKE NOW?

Playgroup will look different for the foreseeable future. Be prepared for this. Some areas that will need to be considered may include:

- Protocols and procedures for maintaining hygiene & cleaning
- Communication and signage of expectations and safety measures
- Density requirements of your venue ie how many people (including children over the age of 12 months) are able to be in the Playgroup space.
- Which toys and equipment to use in the Playgroup space that are easily wiped down, washed or sprayed with Glen 20, as well as which toys or equipment to put away for now
- What activities to provide in the Playgroup space

- How will mat time and snack time be affected
- As part of the new COVID normal, we recommend playgroups use a QR code for checking in. This enables more people to meet in a community venue. You may have seen these codes used in local cafes/businesses. Your church may already have their own QR code for you to use. If not, your church leadership can apply directly via your State governments website, print off the code and then playgroupers can scan in upon arrival.
- Social distancing protocols and procedures for the team and families  
Maintaining a distance of 1.5 metres apart for different family groups. There is no expectation that children social distance, but adults will need to consider how they are social distancing from someone else's child as well as other adults.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO STAY CONNECTED AND PROVIDE ROUTINE FOR OUR PLAYGROUP FAMILIES IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO BE FACE TO FACE?

To stay connected if and when we cannot meet together in person, you might like to consider

- Regular Zoom story and singing times with your group
- Phone calls or text messages to families to check in on how they are traveling
- Meet up regularly in a local park for a play and a catchup when restrictions allow
- Watch websites like [www.playgroup.org.au](http://www.playgroup.org.au) or Facebook groups like 'Playgroup at Home by Playgroup Victoria' for ideas, links and sessions families can join in with.
- Check out the mainly music sessions to share with families on YouTube  
[https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa7RFp7wPIMRnZ6TPZ\\_UmhSKhYsZvdFTa&fbclid=IwAR05jaQpAuRSsHtKdId3jGhMN2RSXmQ1EzziHC3bSzfWOiOMNRrt\\_TICqYM](https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa7RFp7wPIMRnZ6TPZ_UmhSKhYsZvdFTa&fbclid=IwAR05jaQpAuRSsHtKdId3jGhMN2RSXmQ1EzziHC3bSzfWOiOMNRrt_TICqYM)
- Meet with one family at a time for a walk, or a cup of tea on a verandah when restrictions allow
- Do a mailout to your families. Or drop a gift bag off on their verandah with some fun activities, when restrictions allow
- Post short videos of story time, songs or activities on themes enjoyed by pre schoolers on your Playgroup Facebook page or send it to families via a youtube link. Themes such as colours, zoo & farm animals, dinosaurs, seasons, ducks & frogs, bears, your body and feelings are always enjoyed! Great ideas can be sourced by watching Play School on ABC Kids TV
- Browse at [www.cpn.org.au/latest-news/](http://www.cpn.org.au/latest-news/) for ideas of what our member churches have been doing to stay connected with their families, as well as other helpful resources.

## WHERE DO I FIND OUT MORE TO KEEP UPDATED?

Remember, you are not alone! A lot of Playgroups are facing the same uncertainties and the same dilemmas. But also, there are so many others with ideas to share as to how you can keep in touch with your families and children. Join our **Facebook group** so that you keep up with some of these encouraging suggestions. Also check out our **website** for some helpful stories and ideas [www.cpn.org.au](http://www.cpn.org.au) Keep up to date with **the government advice, denominational advice as well as advice provided by Playgroup Australia** and its member state and territory Playgroup organisations

## OTHER QUESTIONS?

We would like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed amazing ideas and provided support to each other over the last year. You have all done brilliantly! We look forward to providing you with further updates and as always, are happy to answer any questions you may have through [admin@cpn.org.au](mailto:admin@cpn.org.au) .

*Blessings, The CPN Committee*