



Thursday 28th May

## COVID-19 Update for Playgroups

We know that being unable to join or attend a playgroup has been challenging for families since groups were suspended due to COVID-19 in March 2020. We also know you are excited to attend playgroup again – so are we! However, we are not quite ready to meet in-person just yet. There are steps we need to take to ensure all children and families can be safe at playgroup.

The Tasmanian Government has released the roadmap for the easing of restrictions over the next few months. From June 15, the number of people that may gather will likely be increased to 20, however there are still restrictions on how the gathering can take place – specifically in relation to the size of the venue and ensuring physical distancing is maintained. It is important to remember that the 20 person limit includes children too.

As the restrictions ease, there is a lot to consider before resuming playgroups including:

- When will your venue be opened and how will cleanliness and use of the building be managed?
- What is the size of your venue and what would the limits on number of participants be in the whole venue and each individual space?
- If required, how will you limit the number of participants to meet the restrictions on gatherings?
- How will you implement the requirements for physical distancing between children, and between children and adults?
- How will you support hand hygiene of children and adults on arrival, departure and during the playgroup?
- How will you ensure people who attend playgroup are not sick, waiting for COVID-19 test results, or needing to self-quarantine due to travel or contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
- How will you ensure that people follow your processes for signing in so that COVID-19 contact tracing can occur easily if needed?
- How will your playgroup manage the cleaning of toys and equipment?
- How will your playgroup manage food safety, the use of the kitchen and kitchen equipment?
- How will your playgroup plan activities and sessions to manage physical distancing and ensure play experiences are COVID-safe?
- How will volunteers get the information and training they need in relation to hygiene and infection control?

Playgroup Tasmania staff are working behind the scenes to prepare for when playgroups reopen again. We are developing materials to guide playgroups during this time so we can together ensure that playgroup gatherings can be held in a safe and healthy environment. We are working on practical resources based on the advice we receive from appropriate Government bodies and health authorities to help playgroups get up and running again as quickly and safely as possible, when restrictions allow. However, we suspect that this may not be until Term 3.

Ensuring playgroup is safe for the children, families and the whole community is a key priority. We thank you for your patience and look forward to when we can all meet again in-person. In the meantime, we encourage you to join our [Playgroup at Home Tasmania](#) Facebook group to help you play and stay connected to each other at home.

Kind regards,

Jacinda Armstrong

Playgroup Tasmania CEO

