

COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate for early childhood education and care centres.

Communication to C&K families - 3 December 2021

Dear Families,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, C&K has always taken precautions and implemented government policies and recommendations designed to keep people safe.

On Tuesday 30 November 2021 the Queensland Government announced a Public Health Directive, which requires all workers in schools, kindergartens and childcare centres to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Under this public health direction, C&K employees and volunteers will be required to have received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccination by 17 December 2021 and be fully vaccinated by 23 January 2022.

This will bring Queensland in line with other state and territories who have mandated the COVID-19 Vaccine for early childhood education and care centres. A Public Health Directive is lawful and enforceable and as such, C&K and all other Queensland early childhood education and care providers must follow it. We support this direction, especially as the children who attend our centres are unable to access any COVID-19 vaccination.

The requirement to be vaccinated will extend to all contractors visiting our centres such as building contractors and therapists.

The Public Health Directive does not include families and carers unless they are volunteering alongside our teachers and educators to support the delivery of the educational program (for example on excursions). All families and authorised nominees will continue to be able to visit our centres and complete drop off and pick up.

How has C&K prepared for the Mandate?

We are working hard to prepare for this deadline to ensure we can effectively plan our workforce.

With many other states and territories already mandating the COVID-19 vaccination for the early childhood sector, C&K have been proactively preparing for this possibility. This has included encouraging staff to get vaccinated and providing them with special paid leave so that they can attend COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

We will soon be updating our COVID-19 Commitment Statement to reflect the new Health Directive and we will share it with you soon.

Thank you for working with us to keep all children safe and well at C&K. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the C&K Coronavirus Advice Team on 07 3513 2590 or 07 3513 2591 or via advice@candk.asn.au.

Kind Regards,

Dr Sandra Cheeseman
Chief Executive Officer

The Creche and Kindergarten Association Limited