



## COVID-19

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q1. Our Church Council is considering making it mandatory to be fully vaccinated for staff and volunteers in public facing roles, and those working with children. What do we need to do?**

**A.** Church Councils are encouraged to seek appropriate employment advice before implementing a mandatory vaccination policy for their staff, particularly where there is no government mandatory vaccination direction applicable. Employers need to ensure that any such policy is both lawful and reasonable given all the circumstances and must check any applicable awards, agreements and employment contracts as well as undertake proper consultation with staff prior to doing so. There are also specific requirements for gathering information about vaccination status and record keeping. Further information on vaccinations in the workplace is available via the Fair Work Ombudsman [here](#).

**Q2. I am a ministry agent in a congregation. Am I required to be vaccinated?**

**A:** If you are visiting a healthcare setting, residential aged care facility or school/early childhood setting, government regulations require you to be vaccinated. If you do not visit these settings, you are not required to be vaccinated, but you are encouraged to be vaccinated as a measure to protect all members of the community, especially vulnerable people and young children.

**Q3. As a worshipping congregation, can we exclude unvaccinated people?**

**A.** Currently, the South Australian government has left it up to businesses and organisations to decide if they will mandate vaccination for those attending. Some venues have done this. Congregations are encouraged to conduct a risk assessment of their congregation, considering vulnerable members, young children who cannot be vaccinated at this time and take action necessary to protect them. If churches decide to provide a worship service for those fully vaccinated you may need to consider also holding a service for those with 'vaccination status unknown.' Please note, if you request to see a person's COVID-19 vaccination certificate, that information cannot be copied, kept or recorded.

**Q4. Are those involved in children's ministry required to be vaccinated?**

**A.** The South Australian government direction for education and early childhood settings does not apply to children's ministry or playgroups in congregations. However we encourage everyone to be vaccinated, and congregations may want to ask that any leaders working with children be vaccinated.

**Q5. If someone in the congregation contracts COVID-19, what do we need to do?**

**A.** Congregations need to follow the SA government's Test, Trace, Isolate and Quarantine process found [here](#).

**Q6. Do we still need to wear masks at church?**

**A.** Yes – all existing current public health measures are still in place – that includes mask wearing at indoor public places (this includes churches), QR check ins, density requirements, hand hygiene, and cleaning, physical distancing, and staying home if you have any symptoms. Churches should refer to their current COVID-Safe Plan issued by the government.