

We are a group of parents with children under five years old who are concerned about the long-term effects of repeated infection with COVID-19. We are all approaching COVID-19 using the precautionary principle. To our knowledge, most of us have managed to avoid contracting COVID-19. We did not know each other before the pandemic began, but connected via online groups and have since formed a regular in-person playgroup because there are so few COVID safe educational and extracurricular options for us.

We meet outdoors and don't attend if symptomatic. Some parents and children choose to test and/or mask at times if they have been in high risk settings or if there is a COVID-19 wave. We have so far had no COVID-19 spread in our playgroup.

We are submitting this anonymously - given the politicised nature of mask wearing and vaccinating children, we feel we need to remain anonymous for the safety of our families.

Our concerns specifically for children under 5 years old:

- Lack of access to vaccines for children under 5 years old.
- Lack of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) in health settings, particularly where younger children cannot mask.
- Many of us are currently not able to access educational, healthcare and social services and extracurricular activities due to the lack of clean air policies in these settings.
- Public health messaging: There is little or no recognition of the airborne nature of SARS-CoV-2 virus. As parents we have to repeatedly educate the healthcare workers, educators, other parents and service providers we come into contact with about the real risks of COVID-19, the need for clean air and masking. We have been in contact with parents and childcare workers encouraging the spread of COVID-19 in households, believing it is beneficial to "build up immunity" despite scientific evidence contrary to this. We have been in contact with medical professionals who advised that infection in children is "mild" without consideration of the long term harm of infection or repeat infections.
- Many of us have no safe childcare options and have given up work to care for our children full-time.
- There are surprisingly few options for outdoor sports for under-5s. Funding is needed for outdoor undercover spaces.

What we would like to see:

- Access to vaccines for under 5s.
- COVID-19 safe options for childcare, healthcare, education and extracurricular activities that prevent or minimise transmission: clean air monitoring and filtration, funded PPE and funding to build outdoor classrooms and outdoor undercover spaces for sports.
- Safe access to public amenities and activities eg swimming, libraries, playgroups, social events through clean air monitoring and filtration.
- Clear and accurate public health messaging about:
 - The airborne nature of SARS-CoV-2 virus - how it is transmitted and the need for clean air. We have spoken to other parents who have used up their sick leave

and have been unwell every other week. They do not know to check the air quality at their children's childcare or school.

- The need for testing, staying home if sick, vaccination, masking to help reduce spread
- The neurological and vascular long term impacts of COVID-19 and repeated infections
- The impact of COVID-19 on children particularly the risk of long covid, the longer term neurological and vascular risks, the risk of repeated infections.
- Clean air standards and how to implement them effectively and economically at home, and in commercial settings such as small business, health and educational settings. This includes what staffing is needed to clean filters, turn them on, check them, check carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels etc.
- Returning to more comprehensive surveillance data to enable people to make informed decisions ahead of time.