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U3A Ipswich & West Moreton Inc COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

U3A Ipswich & West Moreton is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its members, volunteers, tutors and visitors.

U3A Ipswich offers face-to-face services which makes it more susceptible to the spread of coronavirus. Also, our members are retirees and seniors so our demographic is a more vulnerable sector of our community.

An active case of coronavirus at our premises can pose risk to a significant number of our members in face-to-face group sessions and meetings.

Our policy

In line with Queensland Government directives, U3A Ipswich is required to keep its premises safe and minimise the risk of infection and transmission of coronavirus.

The Management Committee of U3A Ipswich has previously decided that in the best interests of our wider community and the safety of all our members all members and tutors who are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination and wish to continue to physically attend U3A Ipswich classes must be fully vaccinated or have an acceptable medical exemption from vaccination registered on the Australian Immunisation Register.

It is now apparent, on the best health advice, that those fully vaccinated may still be infected with coronavirus and may still spread the virus. Those fully vaccinated, however, are almost certainly not likely to suffer severe complications as a result of infection by the coronavirus unless there are other significant health issues.

The Management Committee remains strenuous in staying up-to-date with the changing status of health directives relating to coronavirus and the Committee has thus, following consultation and review, agreed to alter this policy from mandating full vaccination to strongly recommending that members be fully vaccinated.

Conditions of entry

The following conditions of entry to physical attendance classes continue to apply: all attendees must comply with our COVID-19 Safe Plan which is on our website; and

Feeling unsure?

We acknowledge that there may be members in the community who may have other reasons for not being vaccinated. The Management Committee believes, however, that in attempting to offer members the safest possible environment members are urged to seek full vaccination.

If you are unsure if being vaccinated is safe for you or are unsure which COVID-19 vaccine to get you should visit your doctor for professional medical advice.

If you have any questions or concerns or require assistance regarding the decision to update this policy please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Management Committee.

Other Control Measures

It is important to remember that even if you are vaccinated, there is a continuing risk that you may still get or spread coronavirus because the vaccines do not provide 100% protection.

This means additional risk mitigations continue to apply to all members and volunteers. These include:

- implement good hygiene;
- it is your personal choice whether to use personal protective equipment such as masks or gloves or face shields;
- it is compulsory that members who have tested positive to coronavirus must isolate, must not attend classes and must inform their tutor immediately after being tested positive;
- do not attend classes if unwell for any reason.

Changes to this policy

The Management Committee will continue to keep the situation in relation to vaccinations under review in our ongoing COVID-19 risk assessments and review this policy in accordance with any material changes.