



Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

Archdiocesan Protocols NSW & ACT Parishes

*COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Catechetical Ministries for children and young people
under 18 years of age.*

1. Any person involved in face-to-face catechetical programs, events and initiatives with children and young people that takes place within any parish of the Archdiocese is required to be fully vaccinated.

2. This requirement applies to any employee or volunteer involved in leading:

Sacramental preparation programs in parishes

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Special Religious Education (SRE) in government public schools

Altar server training

Youth Ministry events

Other small group programs.

3. This vaccination requirement is in addition to any other Archdiocesan directives and Public Health Orders in place in NSW and the ACT (including the mandatory wearing of face masks; compliance with check-in requirements; and observing social distancing measures and space density limits).
4. A person's vaccination status and vaccination evidence is confidential health information which is defined by the *Privacy Act* as "sensitive information." Due to the sensitivity of this information, an employee or volunteer must not email or send in their vaccination evidence to the Archdiocese or to their Parish Priest.
5. An employee or volunteer's vaccination status and evidence is to be confirmed by sight only at the request of the Archdiocese, or Parish Priest or delegate. Employees and volunteers must carry their Vaccination Evidence at all times while conducting ministry in and/or on behalf of the parish.
6. There is no requirement for *participants* or *attendees* of parish catechetical programs, events or initiatives to be fully vaccinated.
7. When planning for catechetical programs, events and initiatives, the use of larger gathering spaces should always be preferred over smaller spaces where possible.

Father Tony Percy, Vicar General

20 January 2022