
 **Location:** 32 Quinlan Street GOOMALLING
 **Date:** 29 November 2021
 **Time:** 8.30am

PUBLIC NOTICE 14 – VACCINATIONS

Recently the State Government released its roadmap for the easing of COVID restrictions and along with this, information regarding mandatory vaccination requirements. There has been a lot of discussion in the media and the community around the requirements for mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations after these recent announcements.

I am sure that everyone has questions regarding what this means for them. I will try to give you a clear guide as to what the expectations are and what the outcomes will be in the different situations.

SHIRE OF GOOMALLING




1. The staff at the Doctors Surgery are required to be fully vaccinated by 1 December 2021.
2. Almost all positions within the Shire's normal workforce will be required to be fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022. These are;
 - Anyone involved in building maintenance or construction, accommodation services such as the caravan park, child care or family day care (Gumnuts), Emergency Management, waste site attendant or any regulatory role including rangers, building, planning or the like.
 - Also included will be volunteers at bushfires such as brigade members, CWA members providing catering, spontaneous volunteers (who are not brigade members) and any officer, person or volunteer who is likely to have contact with DFES staff or Bushfire brigade members.
 - The Shire office is now a designated Emergency Management site as is a fireground so anyone working or volunteering there will need to be vaccinated.

Failure to be fully vaccinated by this date will lead to the staff member or volunteer being stood down from duties until they are fully vaccinated.

3. All other positions not covered by the above will be required to be fully vaccinated, in the event of a lockdown, unless they are able to work from home. Most of our staff will realistically be unable to work from home.

For frontline staff, works crew, and any staff with public contact, I have recommended that they consider being vaccinated earlier rather than later. This is to ensure that if a lockdown does occur, that they will be able to continue to work.



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While I will not be forcing staff to be vaccinated, where there is a conflict with the State Government policy, I will require staff to either be fully vaccinated or they to stay at home and take normal leave. Council risks significant fines if we do not have this policy in place.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers working in the emergency services space, including Bushfire Brigades (also spontaneous volunteers), Fire and Rescue Services and Ambulance services will be required to have a **first vaccination by 31 December 2021 and be fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022. Failure to do so will see volunteers stood down and refused entry to an emergency services site. This includes volunteer caterers, relief crews and anyone entering an emergency services site.**

What is a fire and emergency services site?

The directions define a fire and emergency services site as:

- A fire or emergency service incident area
- DFES premises
- Volunteer brigade, group or unit premises (including a vehicle, vessel or aircraft)
- Local government premises
- DBCA premises.




The State Government has mandated that Local Governments will need to have proof of vaccination from attendees at fires, will need to maintain proof of that vaccination and should refuse entry to anyone who either is not vaccinated or who cannot prove that they have been.

To this end I am asking all brigade members to provide the Shire of Goomalling a copy of their vaccination certificates which will be held in newly created personnel files at the Shire. These files will double up as their training and brigade files which we will need to maintain to have records of member training and health status. Under the new Work Health and Safety legislation, brigade members/volunteers are seen as Council employees. I will post more on this issue over the coming weeks.

How can I provide evidence that I am vaccinated? - The Chief Health Officer has approved an Australian Government COVID-19 vaccination digital certificate, or your Immunisation History Statement, is evidence of your vaccination status. You can upload your vaccination certificate via the COVID-19 page on the DFES Volunteer Hub. This is the preferred method. A step-by-step guide has been developed to assist you with the upload process.

In addition to their Volunteer Hub, alternative options are being developed by DFES for volunteers to provide evidence of their COVID-19 vaccinations. Further information will be provided shortly to volunteers.



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How do I get access to the Volunteer Hub? If you do not currently have access to the Volunteer Hub, or you have forgotten your password, contact your Volunteer Management Support Officer in your regional office.

How will my vaccination information be used? DFES will only use this information to maintain a record of your vaccination status. There is an obligation for DFES to collect this information and maintain its security.

What happens if I do not provide vaccination evidence? If you do not provide your vaccination evidence by the due date, it will be presumed that you are unvaccinated therefore you will be subject to the same restrictions as an unvaccinated person.

What if I choose not to be vaccinated? Unfortunately, you will not be able to undertake any part of your volunteering role that requires you to enter a fire and emergency services site after 31 December 2021. Failure to comply with the directions, without reasonable excuse, is an offence and may result in fines to the individual. I am a Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) volunteer.

Do I have to provide my vaccination status to my local government? Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, local governments are responsible for establishing and maintaining Bush Fire Brigades, therefore local governments are required to collect and maintain a record of the vaccination status of BFB volunteers. However, DFES is working with WA Local Government Association and local governments across the State to develop an easier process for management of the vaccination records for BFB volunteers.

Further information will be provided shortly through DFES.

Can I be exempted from getting the vaccine? Permanent and temporary exemptions are available on medical grounds from the Australian Immunisation Register or on a limited and temporary basis from the Chief Health Officer. Further information on the exemption process can be found in the Department of Health's Mandatory Vaccination FAQs

GENERAL COMMUNITY




If you work in any of the following occupations you need to have the following vaccination programs in place.

GROUP 1

Already Fully Vaccinated

- Hotel quarantine workers – all
- Port workers - exposed workers only



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- Residential aged care workers
- Healthcare and health support workers in public and private hospitals and public healthcare facilities
 - Tier 1 facilities - highest risk units, wards, departments in hospitals, COVID testing and community vaccination clinics)
- Police staff working in mission critical areas

First dose by 24 October 2021 and fully vaccinated by 24 December 2021

- Cross-border freight (road and rail) workers - high and extreme risk locations only

First dose by 1 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022

- Tier 2 facilities – Health support workers - hospitals, day hospitals, ancillary facilities within hospitals)
- Tier 3 facilities – private health care facilities, premises occupied by Department of Health, health service providers
- FIFO, onsite regional, mission critical mining/resources sector

First dose by 1 November 2021 and fully vaccinated by 1 December 2021




- Primary and community health workers- GPs, private nurses, pharmacies, dental centres, allied health, private pathology
- Healthcare and health support workers in public and private hospitals and public healthcare facilities
 - Tier 2 facilities - health care workers - hospitals, day hospitals, ancillary facilities within hospitals)

First dose by 1 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 31 December 2021

Further mandates:

- Border and air transport
- Staff working in or entering remote Aboriginal communities
- Remaining residential and non-residential community care services not captured by previous mandates including in relation to:
 - Disability
 - In home and community aged care work
 - Homelessness
 - Drug and alcohol services
 - Family and domestic violence
 - Child protection
 - Aboriginal peoples
- Corrections
- WA Police not already mandated
- Fire and Emergency Services (excluding volunteers)
- Abattoirs and meat processing



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First dose by 31 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022

GROUP 2 - Specific critical workers working in the following premises/locations or roles:

- Supermarket, grocery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger; indoor or outdoor food market
- Restaurant, pub, bar or café
- Bakery
- Post office
- Hardware store
- Child care or family day care provider
- School or boarding school (teachers and other support staff) *
- TAFE's and colleges of vocational education
- Financial institution
- Critical infrastructure and services necessary for the health, safety or welfare of the community, any person, animal or premises
 - Veterinary clinic
 - Utilities - power, gas and water, public and private
 - Security provided to critical providers/workplaces only
 - Government regulators
 - Domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery
- Petrol station, truck stops and roadhouses
- Public transport
- Commercial transport including taxis, rideshare and other passenger services
- Remaining Port operations
- Remaining commercial transport, freight or logistics
- Hotel, motel or other accommodation facility to provide accommodation services
- Funerary or mortuary services
- Building, maintenance or construction services
- Staff working or entering remote Aboriginal communities




* Note that all school staff will require double dose prior to the start of Term 1, whilst this will be 31 January for many, others will be prior to that date.

In the event of a lockdown

The following workers will also be required to be vaccinated to attend work in the event of a lockdown or similar restrictions. This includes occupations working in the following premises/locations/roles:

- Other click and collect retail
- Bottleshop or liquor store
- Newsagent



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- Pet store
- Wholesaler
- Conveyancing settlement agents (time critical legal matters)
- Government or local government services where working from home not possible
- Roadside assistance
- Vehicle and mechanical repair services
- Journalist and media services
- Administrative services provided by an employer to enable its employees to work from home
- Forestry (for critical reasons)
- Primary industries (necessary to provide food to, and care of animals and maintenance of crops)
- Factories, manufacturing, production, distribution etc
 - Factory or similar facility that is not able to shut down without causing damage or loss
 - Production and distribution of food and groceries, liquor, medical and pharmaceutical products
 - Commercial operations that supply goods or services for the implementation of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19; necessary to support any critical business activities, or to support the export of goods and services from WA
 - Manufacturing, fabrication or assembly of goods and materials necessary or related to defence or security industries.
- Members and staff of Members of Parliament of Western Australia

As more information comes to hand, we will endeavour to keep you posted. Copies and links to public notices or other State Government releases will appear on our facebook and web pages.

PETER BENTLEY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER