

# Directions from Acting Chief Health Officer in accordance with emergency powers arising from declared state of emergency

## COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions

*Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)*

Section 200

I, Professor Benjamin Cowie, Acting Chief Health Officer, consider it reasonably necessary to protect public health to give the following directions pursuant to section 200(1)(d) of the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic) (PHW Act)**:

### PART 1 — PRELIMINARY

#### 1 Preamble

- (1) The purpose of these directions is to impose obligations upon employers in relation to the vaccination of **workers**, in order to limit the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (**SARS-CoV-2**) within the population of those workers.
- (2) Key definitions are contained in clause 8.
- (3) Worker-specific definitions are contained in clause 9.
- (4) Other definitions are contained in clause 10.
- (5) These directions must be read together with the **Directions currently in force**.

#### 2 Citation

These directions may be referred to as the **COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions**.

#### 3 Commencement

These directions commence at 11:59:00pm on 7 October 2021 and end at 11:59:00pm on 21 October 2021.

## PART 2 — EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS

### 4 Employer must collect, record and hold vaccination information

#### *Vaccination information*

- (1) If a worker is, or may be, scheduled to work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence on or after the **relevant date**, the employer of the worker must collect, record and hold **vaccination information** about the worker.

#### *Booking information — partially vaccinated and unvaccinated workers*

- (2) If the employer collects information that a worker is **partially vaccinated**, the employer must also collect, record and hold information about whether that worker has a booking to receive, by the **second dose deadline**, a dose of a **COVID-19 vaccine** that will cause the worker to become **fully vaccinated**.
- (3) If the employer collects information that a worker is **unvaccinated**, the employer must also collect, record and hold information about whether that worker has a booking to receive, by the **first dose deadline**, a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine that will cause the worker to become **partially vaccinated**.

#### *Timing*

- (4) An employer must comply with the obligations in subclauses (1) to (3) as soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of these directions.

#### *Exception*

- (5) Subclauses (1) to (4) do not apply if the employer already holds vaccination information about a worker who is, or may be, scheduled to work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence on or after the relevant date.

### 5 Employer must ensure unvaccinated workers do not work outside ordinary place of residence

#### *No work outside ordinary place of residence*

- (1) On or after the relevant date, an employer of a worker must not permit a worker who is unvaccinated to work for that employer outside the worker's ordinary place of residence.
- (2) For the purposes of subclause (1), if an employer does not hold vaccination information about a worker, the employer must treat the worker as if the worker is unvaccinated.

#### *Exception — booking by first dose deadline*

- (3) Despite subclause (1), an employer of a worker may, between the relevant date and the first dose deadline, permit a worker who:
  - (a) is unvaccinated; and

- (b) has a booking to receive, by the first dose deadline, a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine that will cause the worker to become partially vaccinated,

to work for that employer outside the worker's ordinary place of residence.

*Exception — self-quarantine*

- (4) Despite subclause (1), an employer of a worker may, after the first dose deadline, permit a worker who:

- (a) is unvaccinated; and
- (b) was unable to become partially vaccinated before the first dose deadline because they were in self-quarantine under the **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions**; and
- (c) has a booking to receive, within 7 days of the end of the period of self-quarantine as determined under the **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions**, a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine that will cause the worker to become partially vaccinated,

to work for that employer outside the worker's ordinary place of residence.

*Authorisation to use vaccination information*

- (5) For the purposes of complying with this clause, an employer is authorised to use any information about a worker that it holds under clause 4.

*Notification to current workers*

- (6) An employer of a worker must, as soon as reasonably practicable after the commencement of these directions, inform each worker who is, or may be, scheduled to work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence on or after the relevant date that:

- (a) clause 4 obliges the employer to collect, record and hold vaccination information about the worker; and
- (b) subclause (1) obliges the employer, on and after the relevant date, not to permit a worker who is unvaccinated to work for that employer outside the worker's ordinary place of residence unless an exception applies under these directions.

*Notification to new workers at specified facilities*

- (7) If an employer engages a worker who is, or may be, scheduled to work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence on or after the relevant date, the employer must inform the worker, as soon as reasonably practicable after engaging the worker that:

- (a) clause 4 obliges the employer to collect, record and hold vaccination information about the worker; and
- (b) subclause (1) obliges the employer, on and after the relevant date, not to permit a worker who is unvaccinated to work for that employer outside the worker's ordinary place of residence unless an exception applies under these directions.

## 6 Exception — exceptional circumstances

- (1) An employer of a worker is not required to comply with clauses 4 and 5 if one or more of the exceptional circumstances specified in subclause (2) applies.
- (2) The exceptional circumstances are:
  - (a) a worker is required to perform work or duties that is or are necessary to provide for urgent specialist clinical or medical care due to an **emergency situation** or a **critical unforeseen circumstance**; or
  - (b) a worker is required to fill a vacancy to provide urgent care, to maintain quality of care and/or to continue essential operations due to an emergency situation or a critical unforeseen circumstance; or  
*Example 1: a large number of workers furloughed due to exposure at a Tier 1 site.*  
*Example 2: a medical practitioner is required to work outside their ordinary place of residence on short notice due to an emergency situation.*
  - (c) a worker is required to respond to an emergency; or
  - (d) a worker is required to perform urgent and essential work to protect the health and safety of workers or members of the public, or to protect assets and infrastructure.
- (3) If a circumstance specified in subclause (2) applies, the employer must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the worker does not work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence for any longer than the period of time necessary to respond to the exceptional circumstance.

## 7 Disclosure to Authorised Officers

- (1) An **Authorised Officer** may request an employer to produce to the Authorised Officer any vaccination information held by the employer under clause 4.
- (2) If an Authorised Officer makes a request to a person under subclause (1), the person must comply with the request.

*Note: Authorised Officers may also be authorised to exercise the public health risk power in section 190(1)(d) of the PHW Act to require the provision of any information needed to investigate, eliminate or reduce the risk to public health.*

## PART 3 — DEFINITIONS

### 8 Key definitions

#### *Vaccination status*

- (1) A person's **vaccination status** is one of the following:
  - (a) **fully vaccinated**; or
  - (b) **partially vaccinated**; or

- (c) **unvaccinated**; or
  - (d) **excepted person**.
- (2) A person is **fully vaccinated** if the person has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- (3) A person is **partially vaccinated** if the person has received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and is not an **excepted person**.
- (4) A person is **unvaccinated** if the person has not received a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and is not an **excepted person**.
- (5) A person is an **excepted person**:
- (a) if the person holds certification from a **medical practitioner** that the person is unable to receive a dose, or a further dose, of a COVID-19 vaccine due to a medical contraindication; or
  - (b) if the person holds certification from a medical practitioner that the person is unable to receive a dose, or a further dose, of a COVID-19 vaccine due to an acute medical illness (including where the person has been diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2).
- (6) A certification for the purpose of subclause (5)(b) is effective until the earlier of:
- (a) the date specified by the medical practitioner; or
  - (b) the date 6 months from the date the certification was given by the medical practitioner.

#### *Vaccination information*

- (7) For the purposes of these directions, **vaccination information** is information about a person's vaccination status and includes information that is derived from a record of information that was made under, or in accordance with, the **Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015** of the Commonwealth.

*Note: Vaccination information may be recorded in a variety of documents, such as a letter from a medical practitioner, a certificate of immunisation or an immunisation history statement obtained from the Australian Immunisation Register.*

#### *Employers and workers*

- (8) For the purpose of these directions:
- (a) **employer** in relation to a **worker** means:
    - (i) the person who employs or engages the worker; or
    - (ii) if the worker is self-employed—the worker.
  - (b) **worker** means a person identified in Column 1 of Schedule 1, whether paid or unpaid, but does not include:
    - (i) a Commonwealth **employee**; or
    - (ii) a person who works in connection with court proceedings.

### *Dates*

- (9) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **first dose deadline** in relation to a **worker** means the date identified in Column 3 of Schedule 1 for that worker;
  - (b) **relevant date** in relation to a **worker** means the date specified in Column 2 of Schedule 1 for that worker;
  - (c) **second dose deadline** in relation to a **worker** means the date identified in Column 4 of Schedule 1 for that worker.

## **9 Worker-specific definitions**

### *Accommodation worker*

- (1) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **accommodation worker** means a person who works at or in connection with one of the following accommodation facilities, whether operated on a for-profit or not-for-profit basis:
    - (i) camping ground;
    - (ii) caravan park;
    - (iii) hotel;
    - (iv) hostel;
    - (v) bed and breakfast;
    - (vi) private holiday rental facility, including Airbnbs;
    - (vii) motel; or
    - (viii) serviced apartment.

### *Agricultural and forestry worker*

- (2) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **agricultural and forestry worker** means a person who works in connection with:
    - (i) food safety and verification, inspection or associated laboratory services and biosecurity functions;
    - (ii) animal saleyards, knackeries and animal transportation services (including livestock and pets);
    - (iii) services connected with animal health, husbandry or welfare;
    - (iv) farm, animal and bloodstock leasing activities, including but not limited to:
      - (A) farming activities and other operations relating to agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, irrigation, permaculture, apiculture, grains, fibre production, dairy, flower industry, commercial fishing, aquaculture and livestock;

- (B) intensive agricultural production including greenhouses and animal production;
- (C) agricultural, veterinary chemicals and vaccine production, transportation and distribution (including the Pig Services Centre);
- (D) laboratory and diagnostic services;
- (E) animal feed production, transportation, packaging, sale, and feeding (including livestock and pets);
- (F) animal pounds and shelters activities; or
- (v) forestry activities for the purposes of or relating to:
  - (A) production of firewood for heating of **premises**;
  - (B) production of pallets;
  - (C) production of building supplies for construction;
  - (D) production of other goods (e.g. paper, packaging, caskets and coffins).

*Airport worker*

- (3) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **airport** has the same meaning as in the **Airports Act 1996** of the Commonwealth;
  - (b) **airport worker** means a person who works at or in connection with an airport.

*Ancillary, support and welfare worker*

- (4) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **ancillary, support and welfare worker** means:
    - (i) a person who works in connection with:
      - (A) services that are critical to, and relate to, the Victorian Government's COVID-19 response (including hotel quarantine); or
      - (B) a major event where that event has received an exemption from the Chief Health Officer allowing it to proceed, including any workers and public broadcast personnel that support the safe running of the major event;
      - (C) employment services; or
    - (ii) fly in fly out workers or drive in drive out workers who are required for continuity of an industry or business and maintenance of a competitive operation and where the service is time-critical, or for the critical maintenance or repair of infrastructure critical to a region of, or to, Victoria; or
    - (iii) maritime crew.

*Authorised Officer*

(5) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **Authorised Officer** has the same meaning as in the **PHW Act**.

*Care worker*

(6) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **alcohol and drug residential service** means:
- (i) a treatment centre within the meaning of the **Severe Substance Dependence Treatment Act 2010**;
  - (ii) a residential treatment service (however described) that provides drug or alcohol withdrawal or rehabilitation services in a residential setting to people dependent on alcohol or other drugs; or
  - (iii) a service that provides supported accommodation to a person after the person has received residential treatment services of the kind referred to in subclause (b);
- (b) **care worker** means a person who works in connection with:
- (i) an **alcohol and drug residential service**;
  - (ii) a **disability residential service**;
  - (iii) services provided to an **NDIS participant** in any setting;
  - (iv) a **homelessness residential service**;
  - (v) a **secure welfare service**;
  - (vi) a **supported residential service**;
  - (vii) essential relief activities including the activities provided at Neighbourhood Houses;
  - (viii) an **eligible SDA enrolled dwelling**;
  - (ix) a **short-term accommodation and assistance dwelling**; or
  - (x) a **mental health residential service** including the service provided at a Community Care Unit or a Prevention and Recovery Centre;
- (c) **disability residential service** means a residential service within the meaning of the **Disability Act 2006** and includes the Intensive Residential Treatment Program of the Statewide Forensic Service, often referred to as 'DFATS';
- (d) **eligible SDA enrolled dwelling** means a Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) enrolled dwelling that is provided under an SDA residency agreement within the meaning of section 498B of the **Residential Tenancies Act 1997**;
- (e) **homelessness residential service** means a service that is funded by government to provide a staffed residential service to people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless;



- (f) **mental health residential service** means a service that is funded by the Victorian Government to provide a staffed residential service to people who have a mental illness;
- (g) **secure welfare service** has the same meaning as in the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005**;
- (h) **short-term accommodation and assistance dwelling** has the same meaning as in the **Disability Act 2006**;
- (i) **supported residential service** has the same meaning as in the **Supported Residential Services (Private Proprietors) Act 2010**.

*Community worker*

- (7) For the purposes of these directions:
  - (a) **community worker** means a person who works at or in connection with a community facility or an organisation providing community services, whether operated on a for profit or not-for-profit basis, including but not limited to:
    - (i) a facility at which services are provided by an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation;
    - (ii) a community centre or community hall;
    - (iii) a public library;
    - (iv) a youth centre; or
    - (v) a skatepark in an outdoor space.

*Creative arts worker*

- (8) For the purposes of these directions:
  - (a) **creative arts worker** means a person who works at or in connection with:
    - (i) an art studio;
    - (ii) a ceramics studio;
    - (iii) a music room or studio;
    - (iv) a rehearsal room or studio; or
    - (v) any other facility that is used for creative art.

*Custodial worker*

- (9) For the purposes of these directions:
  - (a) **custodial worker** means a person who works at or in connection with a:
    - (i) custodial facility that is a facility used for the detention of persons, including but not limited to a:
      - (A) **prison**;
      - (B) **remand centre**;

- (C) **youth residential centre**;
  - (D) **youth justice centre**;
  - (E) **residential facilities**; or
  - (F) **residential treatment facilities**.
- (b) **prison** has the same meaning as in the **Corrections Act 1986**;
  - (c) **remand centre** has the same meaning as in the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005**;
  - (d) **residential facility** has the same meaning as **Serious Offenders Act 2018**;
  - (e) **residential treatment facility** has the same meaning as **Serious Offenders Act 2018**, and includes the Maribyrnong Community Residential Facility;
  - (f) **youth residential centre** has the same meaning as in the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005**;
  - (g) **youth justice centre** has the same meaning as in the **Children, Youth and Families Act 2005**.

*Emergency service worker*

- (10) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **emergency service worker** means a person who works in connection with emergency services including but not limited to:
    - (i) the Victoria State Emergency Services;
    - (ii) Fire Rescue Victoria, the Country Fire Authority or any other firefighting services;
    - (iii) the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority;
    - (iv) aquatic safety services, including life saving services and marine search and rescue services;
    - (v) paramedical services;
    - (vi) ambulance and paramedics services;
    - (vii) air ambulance and medical retrieval services (including Royal Flying Doctor Service);
    - (viii) Victoria Police, protective services and police custody services; or
    - ~~(ix)~~ essential infrastructure and essential services that are required to maintain or protect human health, safety and wellbeing (whether provided by a public or private undertaking), and including maintenance and repair of such infrastructure.

*Entertainment and function worker*

(11) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **entertainment and function worker** means a worker who works at an amusement park for the purpose of providing statutorily required training for staff prior to reopening.

*Funeral worker*

(12) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **funeral worker** means a person who works in connection with funerary or mortuary services.

*Higher education worker*

(13) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **higher education worker** means a person who works at or in connection with:
  - (i) a university;
  - (ii) a vocational education and training institute;
  - (iii) a technical and further education institute;
  - (iv) an adult community and further education institute;
  - (v) a registered training organisation; or
  - (vi) any other facility undertaking post-compulsory education or training.

*Justice service centre worker*

(14) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **justice service centre** means:
  - (i) a premises or place appointed as a community corrections centre pursuant to section 86 of the **Corrections Act 1986** or a youth justice unit pursuant to section 478 of the **Child Youth and Families Act 2005**; or
  - (ii) the Wulgunggo Ngalu Learning Place;
- (b) **justice service centre worker** means a person who works at or in connection with a **justice service centre**.

*Manufacturing worker*

(15) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **manufacturing worker** means a person who works at or in connection with a premises used for the production or processing of goods, including but not limited to production or processing of:
  - (i) food (excluding meat, seafood or poultry);
  - (ii) beverages including brewed and bottled drinks;

- (iii) textiles, leather, clothing, footwear and accessories;
- (iv) wood products;
- (v) pulp and paper products;
- (vi) printing including small and large production runs;
- (vii) chemicals, including fertilisers, pesticides, pharmaceutical, medicinal, cleaning products, toiletries, cosmetics, photographic and explosives;
- (viii) metal and plastics;
- (ix) machinery and equipment manufacturing including parts;
- (x) furniture;
- (xi) household goods;
- (xii) whole or partial products; or
- (xiii) software, essential marketing or product installation.

*Marriage celebrant*

(16) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **marriage celebrant** has the same meaning as **authorised celebrant** in the **Marriage Act 1961** of the Commonwealth.

*Meat and seafood processing worker*

(17) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **meat and seafood processing worker** means a person who works at or in connection with an abattoir or a meat, seafood or poultry processing plant.

*Media and film production worker*

(18) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **media and film production worker** means a person who works:
  - (i) in connection with:
    - (A) journalism;
    - (B) the production of feature films, theatre, television shows and documentaries (excluding television commercials, student and corporate productions);
    - (C) broadcasting performances from an entertainment facility; or
    - (D) a rehearsal conducted by a National Performing Arts Company.

*Mining worker*

(19) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **mining worker** means a person who works at a premises at which mining activities take place, including coal mining, oil and gas

extraction, metal ore mining, non-metallic mineral mining and quarrying petroleum production.

*Physical recreation worker*

(20) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **physical recreation worker** means a person:
  - (i) who works at or in connection with:
    - (A) a facility used or partly used for sport, sport racing or physical recreation;
    - (B) a **play centre**;
    - (C) a trampolining centre; or
    - (D) a swimming pool, **hydrotherapy pool**, spa, sauna, steam room or **spring facility**; or
  - (ii) who provides personal training services;
- (b) **hydrotherapy pool** means a pool designed to be used for hydrotherapy or rehabilitation purposes;
- (c) **play centre** means a premises, whether indoor or outdoor, that has play equipment to be used or partly used by children under the age of 12 years but does not mean a playground;
- (d) **spring facility** means a hot, sweet, geothermal or mineral pool, spa or bath fed by groundwater from an aquifer.

*Port or freight worker*

(21) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **port or freight worker** means a person works in connection with:
  - (i) air transport services;
  - (ii) port operations;
  - (iii) freight services (including postal and courier services);
  - (iv) services provided by a transport, freight or logistics driver; or
  - (v) monitoring compliance with the **Heavy Vehicle National Law**.

*Professional sports, high-performance sports, or racing person*

(22) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **professional sports, high-performance sports, or racing person** means a person who:
  - (i) performs a sporting activity in an open-aged national or international competition (at the highest level as identified by the recognised national body);
  - (ii) is employed to perform a sporting activity as their primary source of income (for example, employed by a professional club or recognised national body);

- (iii) is a National Institute Network Scholarship holder or equivalent level national categorised athlete;
- (iv) supports the safe conduct of another person's professional sport;
- (v) publicly broadcasts professional sport; or
- (vi) participates in thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing.

*Professional services worker*

(23) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **Australian legal practitioner** has the same meaning as in the **Legal Profession Uniform Law Application Act 2014**;
- (b) **legal worker** means an **Australian legal practitioner** who provides services in connection with the administration of justice where the services cannot be provided by an online communication, teleconference or by means of an audio-visual link facility;
- (c) **professional services worker** means:
  - (i) a person who **provides a financial service** within the meaning of section 766A of the **Corporations Act 2001** of Commonwealth, or works in connection with the provision of such a service; or
  - (ii) a **legal worker**.

*Public sector employee*

(24) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **public sector employee** has the same meaning as in the **Public Administration Act**, but does not include persons:
  - (i) employed or engaged by the Chief Executive Officer of Court Services Victoria; or
  - (ii) employed or engaged by the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

*Real estate worker*

(25) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **estate agent** has the same meaning as in the **Estate Agents Act 1980**;
- (b) **real estate worker** means a person who works in connection with the provision of services by an **estate agent**.

*Religious worker*

(26) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **religious worker** means a person who works at or in connection with a **place of worship**, but does not include a person who:

- (i) conducts services of public worship and acknowledgments of faith;
  - (ii) performs marriages, funerals and special memorial services according to tradition and ecclesiastical and civil law; or
  - (iii) visits members of the community in their homes, hospitals and other institutions to provide advice and religious comfort for the purpose of end of life faith reasons;
- (b) **place of worship** has the same meaning as in the **Heritage Act 2017**.

*Repair and maintenance worker*

(27) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **repair and maintenance worker** means a person who works in connection with:
- (i) laundry services;
  - (ii) dry cleaning services;
  - (iii) carwashing services;
  - (iv) commercial cleaning service;
  - (v) locksmith services;
  - (vi) roadside assistance services;
  - (vii) pool and spa maintenance services for commercial pools and spas;
  - (viii) vehicle and mechanical repair services;
  - (ix) outdoor maintenance, repairs, and cleaning, including at occupied premises;
  - (x) outdoor home installations;
  - (xi) home solar panel installations that involve outdoor work or in roof cavities with external access; or
  - (xii) critical repairs to any premises where required for emergency or safety.

*Retail worker*

(28) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **bottle shop** means an area that is physically attached to a licensed premises where packaged alcohol is sold to be consumed off the premises;
- (b) **food and drink facility** means a café, restaurant, fast-food store, cafeteria, canteen, winery, food truck or food court;

*Note: a food and drink facility includes a food and drink facility at a stadium or arena.*

- (c) **market** means a public market, whether indoor or outdoor, including a food market and includes individual stalls at a market;
- (d) **retail facility** means a premises, or part of a premises, at which a business operates to provide for the sale or hire of goods by retail, or the provision of services by retail, including but not limited to a:
  - (i) **market**, but only to obtain groceries or fresh food;
  - (ii) **retail shopping centre**;
  - (iii) supermarket, grocery store, bakery, butcher, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger;
  - (iv) **food and drink facility**;
  - (v) post office;
  - (vi) news agent;
  - (vii) petrol station (including a petrol station that sells groceries);
  - (viii) **bottle shop**;
  - (ix) pet store; or
  - (x) a facility that provides 'click and collect' services;
- (e) **retail worker** means a person who works at or in connection with a **retail facility** or a wholesale or distribution facility;
- (f) **retail shopping centre** has the same meaning as in the **Retail Leases Act 2003**.

*Science and technology worker*

(29) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **science and technology worker** means a person who works in connection with scientific and technical research or activities, but only in relation to:
  - (i) COVID-19 (e.g. MedTech research regarding vaccines);
  - (ii) hazard monitoring and resilience;
  - (iii) biosecurity and public health;
  - (iv) medical or other research, which is ongoing and requires on site attendance; or
  - (v) critical scientific experiments, labs, and collections.

*Social and community service worker*

(30) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **social and community service worker** means a person who works in connection with:
  - (i) disability services;
  - (ii) services provided to an NDIS participant in any setting;



- (iii) child protection services;
- (iv) family violence and sexual assault support services;
- (v) homelessness support services;
- (vi) public housing support services;
- (vii) mental health services;
- (viii) any social services provided or contracted by the government to support members of the community who have a particular need because of family violence, homelessness, illness or a chronic health condition, infirmity, disability, contact with the justice system or other essential support service; or
- (ix) interpreter, cultural, or support services.

*Transport worker*

- (31) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **transport worker** means a person who performs work in connection with:
    - (i) a **bus company**;
    - (ii) a **commercial passenger vehicle service**; or
    - (iii) a **public transport service**;
  - (b) **bus company** has the same meaning as in **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**;
  - (c) **commercial passenger vehicle service** has the same meaning as in the **Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Act 2017**;
  - (d) **public transport service** has the same meaning as in the **Transport (Compliance and Miscellaneous) Act 1983**.

*Utility and urban worker*

- (32) For the purposes of these directions:
- (a) **utility and urban worker** means a person who works in connection with:
    - (i) specialist services at telecommunications stores to support telecommunications as a critical service during the COVID-19 pandemic;
    - (ii) services to support the ongoing provision and regulation of electricity, gas, water, sewage and waste and recycling services and their maintenance;
    - (iii) domestic and commercial waste and resource recovery services (including collection, treatment and disposal services and transfer stations), including:
      - (A) electricity services;
      - (B) operation of energy systems;

- (C) gas services;
- (D) water supply, sewerage and drainage services; or
- (E) liquid fuels and refinery services;
- (iv) the operation of primary clinical waste incinerators by specialised clinical waste workers;
- (v) the operation of carparks for the purposes of supporting workers.

*Veterinary and pet/animal care worker*

(33) For the purposes of these directions:

- (a) **veterinary and pet/animal care worker** means a person who works:
  - (i) in connection with:
    - (A) pet grooming services;
    - (B) veterinary services;
    - (C) animal rescue services;
    - (D) animal health, husbandry or welfare services; or
  - (ii) at the premises of or in connection with:
    - (A) a nature reserve at which animals are treated and cared for;
    - (B) a zoo.

## 10 Other definitions

For the purposes of these directions:

- (1) **Commonwealth employee** has the same meaning as in the **Sex Discrimination Act 1984** of the Commonwealth;
- (2) **COVID-19 vaccine** means a vaccine to protect a person against SARS-CoV-2 that:
  - (a) has been registered or provisionally registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration; or
  - (b) has been approved by a comparable overseas regulator, as determined by the Therapeutic Goods Administration under regulation 16DA(3) of the **Therapeutic Goods Regulation 1990** of the Commonwealth;
- (3) **critical unforeseen circumstance** means a circumstance that the employer could not reasonably have foreseen nor planned for which results in a critical need for staff;
- (4) **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions** means the **Diagnosed Persons and Close Contacts Directions (No 28)** as amended or replaced from time to time;
- (5) **Directions currently in force** has the same meaning as in the **Workplace Directions** as amended or replaced from time to time;

- (6) **emergency situation** means a situation where it is reasonably apparent to an employer that medical treatment is necessary, as a matter of urgency to:
- (a) save a person's life; or
  - (b) prevent serious damage to a person's health; or
  - (c) prevent a person from suffering or continuing to suffer significant pain or distress;
- (7) **medical contraindication** means one of the following contraindications to the administration of a **COVID-19 vaccine**:
- (a) anaphylaxis after a previous dose;
  - (b) anaphylaxis to any component of the vaccine, including polysorbate or polyethylene glycol;
  - (c) in relation to AstraZeneca:
    - (i) history of capillary leak syndrome; or
    - (ii) thrombosis with thrombocytopenia occurring after a previous dose;
  - (d) in relation to Comirnaty or Spikevax:
    - (i) myocarditis or pericarditis attributed to a previous dose of either Comirnaty or Spikevax; or
  - (e) the occurrence of any other serious adverse event that has:
    - (i) been attributed to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by an experienced immunisation provider or medical specialist (and not attributed to any another identifiable cause); and
    - (ii) been reported to State adverse event programs and/or the Therapeutic Goods Administration;
- (8) **medical practitioner** means:
- (a) a general practice registrar on an approved 3GA training placement; or
  - (b) a public health physician; or
  - (c) a general physician; or
  - (d) an infectious disease physician; or
  - (e) a clinical immunologist; or
  - (f) a gynaecologist; or
  - (g) an obstetrician; or
  - (h) a general practitioner who is vocationally registered; or
  - (i) a general practitioner who is a fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP); or
  - (j) a general practitioner who is a fellow of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM);

- (9) **NDIS participant** has the meaning given to 'participant' under the **National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013** of the Commonwealth;
- (10) **PHW Act** means the **Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008**;
- (11) **PPE** means personal protective equipment;
- (12) **premises** has the same meaning as in the **PHW Act** but does not include a worker's ordinary place of residence.

## 11 Penalties

- (1) Section 203 of the PHW Act provides:

### **Compliance with direction or other requirement**

- (1) A person must not refuse or fail to comply with a direction given to the person, or a requirement made of the person, in the exercise of a power under an authorisation given under section 199.

Penalty:            In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;  
                           In the case of a body corporate, 600 penalty units.

- (2) A person is not guilty of an offence against subsection (1) if the person had a reasonable excuse for refusing or failing to comply with the direction or requirement.

*Note: section 209 of the PHW Act provides for infringement notices to be served on any person who has refused or failed to comply with a direction given to the person, or a requirement made of the person, in the exercise of a power under an authorisation given under section 199. The amount payable pursuant to the infringement notice varies depending on the nature of the failure or refusal.*

- (2) Section 210 of the PHW Act provides:

### **False or misleading information**

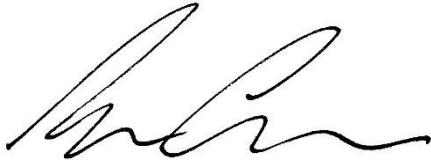
- (1) A person must not—
  - (a) give information that is false or misleading in a material particular; or
  - (b) make a statement that is false or misleading in a material particular; or
  - (c) produce a document that is false or misleading in a material particular—
 to the Secretary, a Council, the Chief Health Officer or an authorised officer under this Act or the regulations without indicating the respect in which it is false or misleading and, if practicable, providing correct information.

Penalty:            In the case of a natural person, 60 penalty units;  
                           In the case of a body corporate, 300 penalty units.

- (2) A person must not make an entry in a document required to be kept by this Act or the regulations that is false or misleading.

Penalty:            In the case of a natural person, 60 penalty units;  
                           In the case of a body corporate, 300 penalty units.

- (3) In a proceeding for an offence against subsection (1) or (2) it is a defence to the charge for the accused to prove that at the time at which the offence is alleged to have been committed, the accused believed on reasonable grounds that the information, statement or document was true or was not misleading.



Professor Benjamin Cowie

Acting Chief Health Officer, as authorised to exercise emergency powers under section 199(2)(a) of the PHW Act.

7 October 2021

## SCHEDULE 1 —WORKERS

Row	Worker (Column 1)	Relevant date (Column 2)	First dose deadline (Column 3)	Second dose deadline (Column 4)	Worker-specific definitions
1.	<b>accommodation worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(1)(a)
2.	<b>agricultural and forestry worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(2)(a)
3.	<b>airport worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(3)(b)
4.	<b>ancillary, support and welfare worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(4)(a)
5.	<b>Authorised Officer</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(5)(a)
6.	<b>care worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(6)(b)
7.	<b>community worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(7)(a)
8.	<b>creative arts worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(8)(a)

9.	<b>custodial worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(9)(a)
10.	<b>emergency service worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(10)(a)
11.	<b>entertainment and function worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(11)(a)
12.	<b>funeral worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(12)(a)
13.	<b>higher education worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(13)(a)
14.	<b>justice service centre worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(14)(b)
15.	<b>manufacturing worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(15)(a)
16.	<b>marriage celebrant</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(16)(a)
17.	<b>meat and seafood processing worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(17)(a)

18.	<b>media and film production worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(18)(a)
19.	<b>mining worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(19)(a)
20.	<b>physical recreation worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(20)(a)
21.	<b>port or freight worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(21)(a)
22.	<b>production and distribution worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	<b>Error! Reference source not found.</b>
23.	<b>professional sports, high-performance sports or racing person</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(22)(a)
24.	<b>professional services worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(23)(a)
25.	<b>public sector employee</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(24)(a)
26.	<b>real estate worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(25)(b)



27.	<b>religious worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(26)(a)
28.	<b>repair and maintenance worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(27)(a)
29.	<b>retail worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(28)(e)
30.	<b>science and technology worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(29)(a)
31.	<b>social and community service worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(30)(a)
32.	<b>transport worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(31)(a)
33.	<b>utility and urban worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(32)(a)
34.	<b>veterinary and pet/animal care worker</b>	15 October 2021	22 October 2021	26 November 2021	9(33)(a)