

Member Update: Directions to give effect to Victorian Premier's mandatory vaccination announcement not yet issued

Further to our Bulletins issued on [1 October 2021](#) and [4 October 2021](#), VACC advises members that **Directions from the Chief Health Officer** (or delegate) **giving effect to the Victorian Premier's announcement** on 1 October 2021, that all Victorian workers on the Authorised Workers list will require their first COVID-19 vaccine dose by 15 October 2021 to continue working onsite (and second dose by 26 November 2021), **have not yet been issued**.

VACC notes that this is despite the Victorian Government having **previously indicated** that the Directions would be issued on **11:59pm on 5 October 2021**. However, the Directions are **expected imminently**.

VACC reminds members that it will provide a **further update on the details of the requirements once Directions giving effect to the mandatory vaccination announcement have been issued**. As noted in previous Bulletins, this will include guidance and material to assist members through the process.

In the interim, **VACC continues to advise members to wait for the Directions to confirm requirements before formally notifying employees in writing**. VACC notes that given the current delay in the release of the Directions, it is **possible** that there may be an **adjustment to the COVID-19 vaccine dose dates**. Again, this is something that will ultimately be confirmed by the Directions once they are released.

VACC understands that the issue of mandatory vaccinations is a contentious and divisive one for a number of members and their employees – and a major point of focus over the last week. Members are however, reminded to **remain vigilant** in ensuring that they continue to meet their obligations under current **COVID-19 settings**:

Work Permits

Authorised workers continue to be required to **carry permits** when working, and when travelling for work, in **Metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, City of Greater Shepparton and Moorabool Shire**.

Face masks

Face masks must be carried at all times and **worn indoors and outdoors** except if at home, or when visiting an intimate partner's place of residence or if an exemption applies. This continues to apply in **Regional Victoria**, with an express requirement that **masks remain mandatory and cannot be removed for eating/drinking in retail facilities**.

Density quotients

For workplaces in **Regional Victoria**, and those authorised to remain open in Metropolitan Melbourne, Mitchell Shire, City of Greater Shepparton and Moorabool Shire, density quotients in shared spaces and publicly accessible areas at the work premises are **1 person per 4 square metres**, subject to the following:

- **Food and drink facilities (e.g. roadhouses) in Regional Victoria** – open for seated service only with maximum of 20 outdoors and 10 indoors, subject to density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres. Food courts open for takeaway service only.

- **Office work environment in Regional Victoria** – 25 per cent or up to 10 people if total workplace is 40 people or less, subject to a density quotient of 1 person per 4 square metres.

QR Code Requirements

The electronic record keeping requirements through **Victorian Government QR Code Service** continue to apply for those businesses that are eligible to continue operating. The requirement to make reasonable efforts to ensure people check-in and to prominently display QR Code signage at each entrance remains unchanged.

COVIDSafe Plan

COVIDSafe Plans are mandatory for **all** Victorian workplaces. VACC recommends that COVIDSafe Plans should be reviewed to ensure it remains current and that cleaning, signage, record-keeping and other applicable requirements are being adhered to and communicated with all relevant staff. Members are encouraged to contact the VACC OHSE Unit for any further information or assistance, including in relation to their [COVIDSafe Plan obligations](#) on 03 9829 1265.

VACC will continue to keep members advised of developments. Members needing further advice or assistance are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123.

WorkSafe charges Victorian business with breach of OHS Act in relation to COVID-19 measures

On 6 October 2021, WorkSafe [announced](#) that a Victorian accommodation provider has been charged with a breach of **section 26(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (OHS Act)** for failing to ensure, so far as was reasonably practicable, that the workplace was safe and without risks to health.

Specifically, WorkSafe alleges that the company **failed to have a COVIDSafe Plan in place, failed to require contractors to sign in on entry and failed to require people entering the business to wear a mask that covers the mouth and nose.**

The matter is listed for a mention hearing at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court on 30 November 2021.

Members are encouraged to contact the VACC OHSE Unit for any further information or assistance, including in relation to their [COVIDSafe Plan obligations](#) on 03 9829 1265.

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