

## New Pandemic Orders Provide Important Clarification on Vaccination Requirements

Further to our last [Bulletin](#), new Pandemic Orders have now been issued by the Minister for Health, giving effect to the significant easing of COVIDSafe Settings announced last week. The new Pandemic Orders became operative from **11:59pm 24 June 2022** – with a common nominal expiry date of **11:59pm 12 July 2022**.

The most significant change under the new Pandemic Orders has been a change to the definition of 'specified worker', which **no longer covers automotive industry workers** (e.g. 'repair and maintenance worker', 'retail worker', 'manufacturing worker') and is now limited to 'custodial worker', 'disability worker' and 'emergency service worker'.

This change is important as it means that the previously announced **removal** of the rules requiring **general workers** (e.g. office workers) to work from home unless they are double-vaccinated (or an exempted person) – **now also applies to workers in the automotive industry** (e.g. 'repair and maintenance worker', 'retail worker', 'manufacturing worker').

As a result, in the automotive industry, **COVID-19 vaccination policies are now a matter for employers to determine**. As noted in our previous Bulletin, members are advised that the issue of voluntarily introducing mandatory workplace COVID-19 vaccinations is a complex one, requiring appropriate **consultation** with employees and a consideration of the **particular risk factors** that apply in the workplace prior to any implementation. Members wanting assistance in preparing their own COVID-19 vaccination policy are encouraged to contact VACC workplace Relations.

For the **automotive industry**, the **new Pandemic Orders** confirm that:

- **COVID-19 vaccination requirements ceased** to apply to the automotive industry from 11:59pm on 24 June 2022. Members are no longer restricted in recruiting and employing individuals that are not double-vaccinated against COVID-19.
- **Positive COVID-19 cases must still isolate for seven days from the day they took their test** but may now leave home to drive a household member directly to or from education or work without leaving their vehicle. They can also leave home to get medical care, a COVID-19 test, or in an emergency, including the risk of harm.
- **COVIDSafe Plans** remain a requirement – with a copy required to be held at the work premises at all times and presented to an Authorised Officer / WorkSafe Inspector on request. VACC encourages members to update their COVIDSafe Plans to reflect the changes introduced in the new Pandemic Orders and to contact the **VACC OHSE Unit on 03 9829 1265** should they require any assistance.

**Members can access a summary of current COVID-19 testing, isolation and notification requirement FAQs [here](#).**

Members can access the new Pandemic Orders below:

- [\*Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order 2022 \(No. 9\)\*](#)
- [\*Pandemic \(Quarantine Isolation and Testing\) Order 2022 \(No. 9\)\*](#)
- [\*Pandemic \(Public Safety\) Order 2022 \(No. 2\)\*](#)

Members seeking further advice or assistance are encouraged to contact VACC's Workplace Relations team on 03 9829 1123 or [ir@vacc.com.au](mailto:ir@vacc.com.au).

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