

Victorian Freight and Logistics Industry COVID-19 update

8 October 2021

Worker mandatory vaccination directions now available

The [COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination \(Workers\) Directions](#) have been published.

The Directions apply to many workers who work, or are scheduled to work, outside of their home.

Vaccination is required for a person who works in connection with:

- air transport services
- port operations
- freight services (including postal and courier services)
- services provided by a transport, freight or logistics driver
- monitoring compliance with the Heavy Vehicle National Law
- retail workers including in wholesale and distribution.

All pertinent workers are listed in Schedule 1 of the Directions.

Workers are required to have their first COVID-19 vaccine dose by 15 October or have a first dose booking before 22 October 2021. They must have their second dose by 26 November 2021.

Employer obligations:

- Employers must collect, record and hold vaccination information (from the certificate of immunisation or an immunisation history statement obtained from the Australian Immunisation Register) about their workers.
- If the worker is partially vaccinated, employers must record and hold appointment booking information that the worker is to receive second dose by 26 November 2021.
- If the worker is unvaccinated by the due dates or refuses to show evidence, the employer must treat them as unvaccinated. An employer must not permit an unvaccinated worker to work outside their home unless they have certification from a medical practitioner.

An Authorised Officer may request an employer to produce vaccination-related information.

The latest directions can be viewed on the [Department of Health website](#).

Worker vaccination blitz

To assist workers getting vaccinated by 15 October, some GPs and pharmacies will have additional capacity to extend their hours and staffing. There will also be a Moderna vaccination blitz till 10 October at the following sites:

- Melton Vaccination Hub (Bunnings)
- Sunshine Vaccination Hub
- Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre
- Royal Exhibition Building
- Sandown Racecourse Vaccination Centre
- Frankston Community Vaccination Hub
- Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre
- Dandenong Palm Plaza
- Former Ford Factor Campbellfield
- La Trobe University site in Bundoora
- St Francis Xavier College Officer Campus

Vaccination bookings are also available through state-run centres by visiting www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine.



Department
of Transport

NSW and ACT zone changes

From midnight, 6 October, the Victorian Government made the following changes:

- non-locked down red zones in NSW and ACT became orange zones
- current extreme risk zones became red zones.

What this means for freight

Freight workers entering Victoria from **orange zones** will still require a Specified Worker (Multiple Entry) Permit with associated vaccination requirements, as specified in the next section. **However, a COVID-19 test is only required within 72 hours of entry.**

Testing every three days is only applicable to those freight drivers who have been in a **red or extreme risk zone** in the 14 days prior to entry.

For a map of current zones, visit the [Coronavirus website](#).

Requirement for first COVID-19 vaccine dose now in place

To be eligible for a Specified Worker (Multiple Use) Permit, all freight workers entering Victoria are now required to have evidence of one COVID-19 vaccine dose or a medical exemption.

You can read the requirements for vaccination at clause 12 of the [Victorian Border Crossing Permit Directions \(No 33\)](#). Permit holders can still receive priority vaccination bookings by calling 1800 675 398.

Other state vaccination requirements

South Australia

From 7 October, all commercial transport and freight workers entering South Australia by road from the ACT, NSW and Victoria must produce evidence of having received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. For more information see the [Government of South Australia website](#).

Queensland

On 15 October, all truck drivers entering Queensland must have at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. For more information see [Queensland Government's Health website](#).

Western Australia

On 24 October, all transport, freight and logistics workers travelling from or through high or extreme risk jurisdictions will require at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine to enter Western Australia. For more information see [Government of Western Australia's media statement](#).

Construction site vaccination requirements

With many Victorian construction sites back in operation, a reminder that any delivery workers are included in the vaccination requirements for those who attend construction sites. They must have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine unless they have a medical exemption.

Site operators will request evidence of a worker's COVID-19 vaccination status. For further information visit the [Coronavirus website](#).

COVID-19 indemnity scheme

Almost all side effects from COVID-19 vaccines are mild and resolve within a few days. In the very rare circumstance where people suffer a moderate or significant impact to a vaccine, the Australian Government has developed a claims scheme. The scheme provides a streamlined process to reimburse/compensate eligible people without the need for complex legal proceedings.

You can read more about the scheme on the [Australian Government Department of Health website](#).