

## Frequently asked questions on vaccine mandates

**Q: The COVID-19 certificate available for medically exempt people seems odd. Wouldn't an organisation need to know whether someone is unvaccinated to have an opportunity to put in place additional safety measures to protect the person/their staff?**

A: The certificate states that the person has a medical contraindication to the COVID-19 vaccines. You can see an example [here](#). The medical exemption does not show on people's Service Victoria app to protect their private health information when going to a café.

**Q: Just wanted to check the Exemption proof that needs to be viewed. The DHHS website seems to imply that from Nov 12th, the Immunisation record of a person showing contraindications should suffice, but I have also just seen info that you need to view an "Immunisation Medical Exemption Form (IM011 Form)".**

A: The evidence of a medical exemption to COVID-19 vaccinations has recently changed. It no longer includes a letter from a medical practitioner or the Immunisation Medical Exemption Form (IM011 Form). The COVID-19 digital certificate is suitable as evidence of medical exemption in either digital or printed form. It is accessed in the same way as the certificate for someone who is fully vaccinated.

**Q: For many 'volunteer-run' events e.g. a tree planting event, my understanding from your explanation is there is no real distinction between the organisers there running the activity and all other participants there contributing their volunteer labour to the activity. So, in these situations what you described as 'the obligation around the workforce (not patrons)' would apply to everyone?**

A: Yes, the worker obligations would apply to anyone undertaking work-like activities whether paid or unpaid if the type of work has a vaccination requirement. Not all workers have vaccination requirements, but many do.

Vaccination requirements apply to:

- Workers, including community workers, covered and defined by the COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions
- Workers at construction sites, residential aged care facilities, healthcare facilities and education facilities
- People who can work from home but are not working from home (e.g., office workers)

Guidance on worker vaccination: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-workers-required-be-vaccinated>

The current Directions: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/covid-19/directions-issued-by-victorias-chief-health-officer>



**Q: Previously we were told that Neighbourhood Houses who offer food relief needed to have different time slots/entrances for non-vaxxed attendees, so is that not the case anymore? Also, same for people accessing Centrelink through the Neighbourhood Houses who are Centrelink agents**

A: There is no requirement for separate entrances. The separate entrance requirement has also been removed for workplaces in a residence.

For any activity that is excepted from the vaccination requirements (e.g., food banks), there is no requirement to separate vaccinated and unvaccinated people, nor to check for vaccination status.

Where a premises has multiple activities going on at once, it is recommended (but not required) to keep different groups of people separated where possible if some are attending an activity without vaccination requirements (e.g., a drug or alcohol support group) and others are attending activities with vaccination requirements (e.g., yoga classes).

**Q: Is a business or venue obliged or recommended to notify patrons that they've been exposed and need to get tested?**

A: There is no requirement to notify patrons of exposure to a confirmed case. The requirement is only to notify workers (including volunteers) of a confirmed worker case.

**Q: Do we need to check the vaccination status of patrons arriving on private land (not private housing). We are an organisations part of the agricultural society.**

A: Vaccination requirements apply in this case as work is being conducted on the premises. It is the nature of the activity (work vs personal activities) that defines the area as a workplace. Any premises where work is conducted (other than a private residence without other staff or patrons/clients) is a workplace. This includes a building irrespective of ownership or tenancy arrangements, public spaces used for work (e.g. exercise classes or when undertaking volunteer activities in a park), community facilities used for work (including volunteer work), a work vehicle and a private residence (e.g. a hairdresser operating from their home). Where part, but not all, of the public space or private residence is used for work it may be that only that subset area is the workplace (e.g. a granny flat used as a hair salon).

Workplace obligations in any of the Directions, including regarding vaccination requirements, apply in all of these workplace areas.

