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To whom it may concern

## **Subject: Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination of People in Health Care Settings**

The Director of Public Health, Dr Mark Veitch, has issued a direction under section 16 of the *Public Health Act 1997* which requires all persons working in a medical or health facility as well as persons providing health and medical services or treatments, to have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or evidence of an exemption by 31 October 2021.

This is a critical step to ensuring the protection of our health workforce and to protect vulnerable patients in their care. The requirement will apply to all workers in public and private health care facilities (including non-clinical staff such as security personnel, cleaners, maintenance, catering and administration staff), and includes all employees of the Department of Health.

A medical or health facility includes:

- hospitals, both public and private and day-procedure centres
- premises owned, or operated by or on behalf of, the Department of Health
- commercial premises where health and medical services or treatments are provided on a regular basis and
- pharmacies.

Health and medical services or treatments include treatments provided by:

- a person who is registered in the medical profession under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law
- a person who is registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practice a health profession
- ambulance services, or non-emergency patient transport services and
- education settings in which health care students are managed to undertake placement, registration, and/or internships in clinical settings (for example, UTAS and TasTAFE students undertaking placement in a hospital or health facility).

Vaccination is also required for the following professions:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner, Aboriginal health practitioner, Torres Strait Islander health practitioner)
- Chinese medicine (including Chinese medicine practitioner, Chinese herbal dispenser, Chinese herbal medicine practitioner, Oriental medicine practitioner, Acupuncturist)
- Chiropractic (Chiropractor)
- Dental (including dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, dental prosthetist and oral health therapist)
- Medical (Medical practitioner)
- Medical radiation practice (Medical radiation practitioner, Diagnostic radiographer, Medical imaging technologist, Radiographer, Nuclear medicine scientist, Nuclear medicine technologist, Radiation therapist)
- Midwifery (Midwife, Midwife practitioner)
- Nursing (Nurse, Registered nurse, Nurse practitioner, Enrolled nurse)
- Occupational therapy (Occupational therapist)
- Optometry (Optometrist, Optician)
- Osteopathy (Osteopath)
- Paramedicine (Paramedic)
- Pharmacy (Pharmacist, Pharmaceutical chemist)
- Physiotherapy (Physiotherapist, Physical therapist)
- Podiatry (Podiatrist, Chiropodist) and
- Psychology (Psychologist).

The direction also includes the following allied health professionals:

- Art therapist
- Audiologist
- Counsellor holding a Master of Counselling from a tertiary institution
- Dietician
- Exercise physiologist
- Genetic counsellor
- Music therapist
- Perfusionist
- Orthotist
- Prosthetist
- Rehabilitation counsellor
- Social worker
- Sonographer and

- Speech pathology.

All Department of Health employees, contractors and volunteers are also required to be vaccinated.

#### Requirements as an employer

An employer of a person in a health care setting should, as soon as is practicable, notify relevant workers, that they are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and request that workers provide evidence of their vaccination status, or a vaccination medical exemption.

From 31 October 2021, employers must take all reasonable steps to ensure an employee does not enter or remain on the premises of a medical or health facility, or provide health and medical services or treatments, if they are not sufficiently vaccinated against COVID-19.

Exemptions will apply for anyone who is unable to be vaccinated against COVID-19 due to medical conditions. Those seeking an exemption must get a [Medical exemption vaccination form](#), available on the resource page of the Tasmanian Coronavirus webpage, completed by a registered medical practitioner.

Arrangements are being put in place to provide every worker the opportunity to be vaccinated by 31 October 2021.

To book a vaccination go to Tasmanian Coronavirus Vaccination page at:

<https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vaccination-information/covid-19-vaccination/Book-your-vaccine>

More information regarding vaccination of health care workers is available on the Health Care Settings page at: <https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/business-and-employees/health-care-settings>, and on the Mandatory vaccination of certain workers Employers page at: <https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/business-and-employees/Employers>. We'll endeavour to provide you with regular updates leading up to the implementation date.

If you have any further queries you can send an email to: [covid19@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:covid19@health.tas.gov.au)

Vaccination against COVID-19 will help protect you, your family, and the Tasmanian community and I thank you for your support in keeping Tasmania safe.



Dale Webster  
Acting State Health Commander

5 October 2021