



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# MANDATORY VACCINATION OF DISABILITY WORKERS IN WA

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# Acknowledgement of country

- May I first acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation, the traditional custodians of this land who are resilient in their custodianship
- Let us celebrate their culture today and every day, and note how privileged we are to share this country
- I pay my respects to elders: past, present and emerging

# Changes to the Mandatory Vaccination policy

- Vaccination rates in WA have now reached >81% booster dose (>16y).
- Higher rates than in other Australian jurisdictions.
- Review of vaccine mandates: effective and compliance has been good.
- No longer proportionate to have them in place broadly.
- Still of value where workers will have intense and close contact with very vulnerable people – in hospitals, health services, residential aged care and residential disability care.
- While other disability workers may have contact with vulnerable people – it is not proportionate to apply the mandates broadly in this and other groups.

# Which mandates will apply from 10 June?

- Healthcare and health support workers in hospitals and primary health care settings;
  - Health Worker (Restriction on Access) Directions (No 4)
  - Primary Health Care Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 3)
- Workers in residential aged care;
  - Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions (No 5)
- Workers in residential disability settings.
  - **\*NEW\*** Disability Support Accommodation Worker Restriction on Access Directions
- Booster Vaccination (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 2)

# Disability Workers

- Previously mandated under [Community Care Services Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#).
- Community Care Services Worker mandate will be ***revoked***.
- Vaccination mandate will *only* apply to those workers in disability support accommodation facilities.
- **Disability support accommodation facility** means:
  - a staffed residential service at which treatment or care is provided specifically for people with a disability, whether by carers or others,
- but does not include:
  - an **exempt disability support accommodation facility**. (private psychiatric hostel or any other facility specified in writing by the CHO to be exempt)

# Which workers in disability support accommodation facilities are mandated?

- **Schedule 1** of the Directions:
  - A person who provides goods or services;
  - Includes Admin staff, ancillary staff, cleaners, laundry staff, gardener, food prep, security officer, regular maintenance, lifestyle and social care;
  - Includes students on placement;
  - A person who provides a disability support at a disability support accommodation facility.
  - Does NOT include a visitor, resident, ad hoc volunteer, family member, advocate, or in-reach services such as pastoral care, hairdresser, tradesperson. Does NOT include Guardianship and Administration/ Office of Public Advocate or Public Trustee or private guardian.

# Disability Workers

- In addition, some Disability Workers were previously mandated under [Primary Health Care Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(No 2\)](#)
- These Directions have been ***updated*** and any reference to Disability Workers has been ***removed*** (new version is No. 3).
- Vaccination mandate will *only* apply to those workers in disability support accommodation facilities – unless the workers also need to enter a hospital as part of their work.

# Exemptions, enforcement and consequences

- As with previous arrangements, exemptions can be provided by GP or doctor (medical exemptions) or CHO office (temporary exemption)
- *Class Exemption* for people who have recently had COVID-19 infection – they are not required to apply for an exemption but are exempt for 4 months (need to show employer their proof of infection)
- Workers who are not vaccinated cannot enter the designated facilities; allows for choice by the individual not to take the vaccine and to work in an alternative part of the organisation, or to seek other employment.
- Enforcement and recording by employer, owner, person in charge.
- Consequences and management of non-compliance will be up to the employer. Organisations that are non-compliant may be investigated by Dept of Health compliance team.



# Questions?