# Webinar 23 June 2022 – Mandatory Vaccination Policy for the Community Sector

Hosted by Department of Communities

Speaker: Dr Andy Robertson, Chief Health Officer, WA

## Questions

#### How can people or organisations seek specific advice on how vaccine mandate changes might affect them?

The CHO’s office can take questions via email to cho@health.wa.gov.au.

#### Do the vaccine mandates apply to allied health workers in private practice?

Yes, allied health workers are covered under the primary health care worker restrictions on access. These were brought into place last year and remain in force.

#### Are mandatory vaccination requirements no longer in place for women’s refuges and domestic violence services that provide supported accommodation? What about youth homelessness support services?

The requirements are specific to residential aged care facilities and residential disability settings.

#### When is the fourth dose going to be available more widely for people under 65?

This is currently under consideration by ATAGI.

#### Do staff who are currently on leave have to be fully vaccinated?

If the earlier directions covered them, then yes, the restrictions on access would apply on their return to work. If they were returning to a non-mandated facility, they would not require the booster unless the employer had a separate employer direction that requires them to. In any case, people are encouraged to have their booster vaccinations.

#### Does the mandate apply to those disability service organisations who provide allied health delivered in a home care setting?

It generally does not apply to home care settings. However most allied health workers are likely to be covered under the requirements of a practice where they work. If they only provide services into homes the directions would not apply to them.

#### An FDV women’s refuge will soon be adding a refuge for people with disability. Will the vaccine mandate apply for this agency?

If the organisation is providing disability residential services, they would continue to be covered under these mandates. However, if it is purely a women’s refuge service, there is no current requirement.

#### What is the current definition of ‘fully vaccinated’?

At this stage the definition remains the double dose vaccination, although the definition may change to double dose plus booster at some stage.

In relation to overseas travel, at this time it is defined as double-dose vaccination. However, please check the latest information from the Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in relation to vaccination requirements for international travel.

#### Employer Directions re vaccination or other health measures

Organisations should also note that while there are health orders covering some sectors, organisations can also make employer directions in relation to vaccinations or other health measures. Organisations considering employer directions should consider a risk assessment and take industrial and legal advice as required.