

Our Ref: C/21/7722

File No: ES.VO.1

To Bush Fire Services Volunteer

RE: WA GOVERNMENT MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

Public Health Directions Fire and Emergency Service Workers (Restriction on Access) Directions No.2

On 20 October 2021 the WA Government announced its mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy to prepare the community for expected community transmission of COVID-19 and safeguard essential services and businesses over the long-term.

The WA Government has now issued a number of Public Health Directions to put its mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy into effect.

The Public Health Directions *Fire and Emergency Service Workers (Restriction on Access) Directions No.2* (PH Directions) provide that you must be vaccinated before you are allowed to enter the workplace covered by the PH Directions. A copy of the PH Directions can be found at www.wa.gov.au.

1. What do the PH Directions require of the Shire of Katanning?

The PH Directions place an obligation on the Shire of Katanning to:

- ensure that volunteers who are unvaccinated by the required dates do not attend a fire and emergency services site in breach of the PH Directions; and
- keep a register which details the COVID-19 vaccination status of workers (workers include members or cadets in a Bush Fire Brigades)

2. What do I have to do in response to the PH Directions?

The PH Directions place an obligation on you to:

- not attend a fire and emergency services site in breach of the PH Directions; and
- provide evidence of your vaccination status to the Shire of Katanning (email: admin@katanning.wa.gov.au).

If you are not yet vaccinated

In order to attend a fire and emergency services site, you must receive two doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccination by the timeframes specified in the PH Directions.

Under the PH Directions you must:

- receive one dose of a COVID-19 vaccination registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by 31 December 2021;
- receive two doses of a COVID-19 vaccination registered by the TGA by 31 January 2022; and

Street Address: 52 Austral Terrace, Katanning WA 6317

Postal Address: PO Box 130, Katanning WA 6317

Phone: 9821 9999 Email: admin@katanning.wa.gov.au

Website: www.katanning.wa.gov.au

 www.facebook.com/ShireOfKatanning

- provide evidence of your vaccination status to the Shire of Katanning by the dates listed above.

If you have been vaccinated

If you have already received one or more COVID-19 vaccinations, you are required to provide evidence of your vaccination status to Cindy Pearce, Community Emergency Services Manager in person or via email: admin@katanning.wa.gov.au.

Evidence of vaccination

The form of evidence of proof of vaccination against COVID-19 approved by the Chief Health Officer is:

- written confirmation of vaccination issued to you by the Department of Health of the vaccination received; or
- a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate or an immunisation history statement issued to you showing the COVID-19 vaccination recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register; or
- an International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate issued by the Commonwealth Government to you showing the COVID-19 vaccination recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register.

3. Will the vaccination information I give to the Shire of Katanning be kept private?

Any private medical information you provide to the Shire of Katanning will be kept confidential and in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles and stored in a secure records file.

4. What if I am not vaccinated by the dates specified in the PH Directions?

A breach of the PH Directions is an offence and could result in a fine of up to \$20,000 for individuals or \$100,000 for the Shire of Katanning.

5. What if I can't be vaccinated?

The PH Directions makes allowances for individuals to be exempted from them if they have a medical or temporary exemption. However, the circumstances that will give rise to an exemption are very limited, and the obligation to obtain the necessary exemption rests on you. You can find more information on medical exemptions on the Services Australia website www.servicesaustralia.gov.au.

If you cannot be vaccinated, please contact Cindy Pearce on 9821 9999 to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely


Julian Murphy
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

8 December 2021