

13 December 2021

Lawful direction: Requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide evidence of vaccination

On 23 March 2020, the Minister for Health first declared a public health state of emergency with effect from 1.30pm on 23 March 2020 in respect of COVID-19, under section 167 of the Public Health Act 2016 (Act). The public health state of emergency applies to the state of Western Australia.

On 3 December 2021, the Public and Commercial Transport Workers (Restrictions on Access) Directions (PT Directions) were issued under the Act to restrict access to a road bus, ferry or railway train by unvaccinated transport workers.

You have been issued this direction as you are required as part of your employment to work onboard a road bus, ferry or railway train involved in the provision of a public passenger transport service.

Direction to employees

You are directed to:

- be vaccinated against COVID-19 in accordance with Part 1 of the Schedule to this direction unless you are exempt from the requirements of the PT Directions.
- provide evidence in a form approved by the Chief Health Officer of your vaccination or of any exemption applying to you by the date mentioned in Part 2 of the Schedule to this direction.

Evidence of your vaccination status in advance of the dates mentioned in Part 1 of the Schedule is required to enable the PTA to predict any shortfalls in staff and plan for them.

If you do not comply with these directions, disciplinary action may be taken against you. The outcomes of disciplinary action can range from a reprimand to dismissal. Further, if you do not comply with these directions you will be unable to attend work and will not be paid for the period you remain unvaccinated.

If you are have provided evidence to the PTA of your vaccination, you are not required to resubmit this information.

Further information regarding applying for an exemption is available from Services Australia and WA Department of Health websites.

For any questions in relation to this direction, please contact speak to your line manager or email COVID@PTA.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

PETER WORONZOW

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Schedule

Part 1: Vaccination Requirements

Transport workers who are required as part of their employment to work onboard a road bus, ferry or railway train must be vaccinated against COVID-19 as follows:

- on and from 12.01 am on 1 January 2022 Partially vaccinated (first dose);
- on and from 12.01 am on 1 February 2022 Fully vaccinated

Part 2: Evidence Requirements

Your evidence of vaccination or of any exemption is required to be provided by 5pm on 20 December 2021.

The Chief Health Officer has approved the following forms of vaccination evidence:

- written confirmation of COVID-19 vaccination/s given by the Department of Health.
- a COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate.
- an Australian Immunisation Register immunisation history statement.
- an International COVID-19 vaccination certificate issued by the Australian Government.

You can provide your evidence through the following means:

- through HR Central;
- via email to COVID@PTA.wa.gov.au; or
- by providing a hard copy to their line manager.

Please refer to the <u>guide</u> to submitting the correct vaccination record for more information.