



DFES General Circular No: 183/2021

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GETTING VACCINATED IS EASIER THAN EVER

I want to thank all staff and volunteers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

We know it is our best defence against the virus and we have seen the evidence around the world.

The State Government has recently announced their intention to enact a Public Health Order, mandating that employees in certain occupations and industries will require a COVID-19 vaccination in order to continue to attend the workplace. The fire and emergency services industry has been identified as a high-risk industry, meaning DFES employees must receive at least one dose by 1 December 2021, and their second dose by 31 December 2021.

While this mandate does not apply to volunteers, I still intend to implement an Infection Prevention and Control Policy which will require volunteers who are not vaccinated to undertake measures such as wearing a mask while on duty. This policy is still under development due to the recent announcement by the State Government.

Introducing this policy will deliver a clear direction in how we manage the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure that all staff and volunteers can feel safe and protected. We have consulted extensively with the volunteer associations, unions and key stakeholders to develop this policy.

The Government's mandate and the imminent implementation of the Infection Prevention and Control Policy have created a degree of urgency for unvaccinated staff and volunteers. I appreciate there have been some reasons people did not get vaccinated in the early stages of the rollout – you may have preferred to wait for the Pfizer vaccine or your age group was not eligible. But those reasons no longer exist, and it is time that everybody steps up for the good of all Western Australians.

The easiest way to get vaccinated is to book yourself an appointment on [Vaccinate WA](#). But even without a booking, anyone can now walk into a State Government-run clinic and receive a vaccine. There are several of these clinics in Perth and 50 spread across regional WA – you can see the list and view clinic opening times [here](#). You can also ring 13 COVID (13 268 43) and follow the prompts to make a booking at one of these clinics.

There are also options to get vaccinated at your local GP or GP respiratory clinic, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service. You can visit [this website](#) and simply enter your location to find your closest option.



To support our employees at DFES in meeting the requirement to have a first vaccination by 1 December 2021, all employees are entitled to use reasonable work time to receive their COVID-19 vaccination.

You are not required to use any form of leave and it should be arranged in consultation with your manager or through the chain of command for Operations personnel.

The State Government has extensive information on COVID-19 vaccinations that can be found [here](#).

Once you're vaccinated, don't forget to upload your [proof of vaccination](#) to Employee Kiosk. A [step-by-step guide](#) and instructional videos have also been developed for uploading details and evidence of your [first](#) and [second](#) doses.

A similar function will be made available on the Volunteer Hub shortly – more details will be provided when this is online.

Whether you are captured by the mandate or not, I am encouraging you to get vaccinated as soon as possible. The situation is now urgent and we cannot wait any longer. Overcoming this pandemic has always come down to working together as one society – it is time we all played our part.

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER