

Memorandum

To: All Members
From: George Shales OAM - SLSNSW President Steven Pearce AFSM – SLSNSW Chief Executive Officer
Date: 12 July 2022
Pages: 2
Subject: Revision to the SLSNSW Members Covid-19 Vaccination Policy

The Surf Life Saving NSW Board has revised its position in regard to the current SLSNSW COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, requiring mandatory vaccination for all volunteers in front line roles.

This has been informed by both a review of our original risk matrix which has been undertaken with respect to the current & the changing environment and the nature of the incidence of COVID 19 infection. We have liaised with our legal advisors throughout this process.

On this basis, Surf Life Saving NSW has made a decision to revise its current policy of mandatory vaccination for all frontline volunteers, to now be a policy position of *strongly recommending and encouraging* full vaccination and booster status.

This will take effect before the commencement of the next patrolling season in September 2022.

However, until all administrative and governance arrangements are enacted, the current policy position remains in effect.

This decision to amend the policy position was based on various factors, including:

- A review of the Covid 19 risk matrix relative to the current operating environment.
- The widespread accessibility and introduction of rapid antigen testing within operations.
- The number of people in the community who have already been infected with COVID 19 is significant, and a determination that our workplaces do not pose any greater risk to members than they experience in their day to day lives.
- The only SLS activity which is materially different in terms of a potentially increased risk of exposure than general community interaction is CPR and close contact first aid. Aside from these two activities, a SLSNSW workplace is no riskier for individuals than other places they would visit (eg shopping centres, workplaces, public transport, recreation facilities etc).
- Mitigations have been put in place around CPR and close contact first aid with use of PPE embedded into the Standard Operating Procedures.

We are cognisant that individuals with some underlying health conditions are at greater risk of more severe illness if they contract COVID-19. On that basis, it will now become a requirement of members in this group to advise SLSNSW, (as part of the membership joining/renewal process), of the nature of their underlying health condition. Examples of what constitutes an underlying health condition will be promulgated in the amended policy.

SLSNSW will then make an assessment of the additional mitigation strategies which will be required of that member to ensure the risk of them contracting COVID-19 from surf lifesaving activities is minimised.

This, may in some situations, based on the nature of the condition, require that individual to not take part in some or all front-line activities.

Members should be aware that those who may be required to be involved in deployment to Emergency Operations Centres or other emergency services premises or operations where that Agency requires a fully vaccinated status, will be required to adhere to these Agency's requirements.