

STATE AND TERRITORY COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTHCARE WORKERS

Updated: 11 April 2023

| | Current requirements for healthcare workers | References |
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| ACT | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in the Australian Capital Territory are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers (Canberra Hospital and Health Services staff and students) are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>ACT Health recommends that face masks are worn by individuals who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff and visitors entering a high-risk setting, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hospitals ○ Residential aged care facilities ○ Residential accommodation facilities that support people who require frequent, close personal care and who are vulnerable to severe disease. ○ Staff providing a service to a person with a disability which is funded or provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the NDIS, or | <p>Refer to:</p> <p>Public Health (COVID-19 Management) Declaration 2022</p> <p>Vaccination requirements to be removed in healthcare and education settings</p> <p>Canberra Hospital and Health Services Procedure – Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination</p> <p>ACT Government, Face masks</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By the ACT Government for the primary purpose of supporting people living with disability, for example, Special Needs Transport Service. ○ Staff who are working for an in-home or community aged care provider. | |
| NSW | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in New South Wales are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers in New South Wales are required to have received at least 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to work or be employed in connection with a NSW Health agency, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Health Public Health Organisations (Local Health Districts, Specialty Health Networks (SHNs), Pillars and Affiliated Health Organisations) ○ NSW Ministry of Health ○ Health Administration Corporation (HAC) entities - being Ambulance Service, NSW Health Pathology, HealthShare, eHealth NSW, Health Protection, Health Infrastructure, and the Health Professionals Councils Authority (HPCA). <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>It is strongly recommended to wear a facemask in indoor public spaces and when individuals cannot physically distance from others.</p> <p>Some restrictions continue to apply for high-risk settings such as disability and residential aged care.</p> | <p>Refer to:</p> <p>Keeping workers safe</p> <p>Occupational assessment screening and vaccination - FAQ</p> <p>Occupational Assessment, Screening and Vaccination Against Specified Infectious Diseases</p> <p>Guidance on wearing face masks</p> |

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| <p>NT</p> | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in Northern Territory are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>Individuals are required to wear a face mask when visiting NT Health hospitals and health care facilities.</p> <p>Some businesses and high-risk settings may require staff and visitors to wear face masks as part of their workplace health and safety practices.</p> | <p>Refer to:</p> <p>NT Health, Face mask rules</p> |
| <p>QLD</p> | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in Queensland are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers (health service employees employed and prospective employees to be employed under the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011) are required to receive and maintain their COVID-19 vaccinations.</p> | <p>Refer to:</p> <p>Health Employment Directive No. 12/21</p> <p>Queensland Health, Face masks</p> |

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| | <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>Businesses and facilities may still require masks to be worn in certain circumstances. Healthcare workers are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding the wearing of face masks.</p> | |
| <p>SA</p> | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in South Australia are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers in SA Health Category A and B roles are required to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccinations. Refer to Category A and B roles on pages 12 to 14 of the SA Health Policy.</p> <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>Hospitals, aged care facilities, disability care facilities, GPs and other healthcare sites may have policies requiring individuals to wear a mask to protect staff, patients, and clients.</p> | <p>Refer to:</p> <p>SA Health Policy: Addressing vaccine preventable disease: Occupational assessment, screening and vaccination</p> |
| <p>TAS</p> | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in Tasmania are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> | |

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| | <p>Public sector healthcare workers are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>Healthcare workers are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding the wearing of face masks.</p> | |
| VIC | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in Victoria are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers employed or engaged by a health service as outlined in the Secretary Directions are required to be fully vaccinated if they are under 18 years old, or fully vaccinated (boosted) if they are 18 years old or older, unless an exemption applies. The COVID-19 vaccination requirement applies in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ public health services ○ public hospitals ○ denominational hospitals ○ private hospitals and day procedure centres ○ ambulance services ○ patient transport services that are engaged or engaged by a health service or Ambulance Victoria ○ public sector residential aged care services ○ Forensicare (via Ministerial Directions, influenza only) | <p>Refer to:</p> <p>Primary care guidance for the response to COVID-19 risks</p> <p>Vaccination for healthcare workers</p> |

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| | <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>There are no longer any legal requirements related to these public health measures, in part because there is no instrument outside of pandemic orders to continue these mandates.</p> <p>The department’s public health advice continues to strongly recommend measures for mask wearing.</p> | |
| <p>WA</p> | <p><u>Vaccination</u></p> <p>Private practice healthcare workers in Western Australia are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p>Public sector healthcare workers are to follow the COVID-19 policies that are in place in their workplace, including any policies regarding vaccination against COVID-19.</p> <p><u>Mask wearing</u></p> <p>Hospitals and healthcare settings may implement face mask policies for employees and visitors. Refer to the hospital or healthcare setting for any face mask requirements.</p> <p>Healthcare workers may be required to wear N95 and P2 respirators in certain circumstances. Reusable fabric face masks are not recommended to be worn by healthcare workers.</p> | <p>Refer to :</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccination program</p> <p>HealthyWA, Face masks</p> |