

PRINCIPLES FOR COVID-19

Adopted 26 February 2021

Updated 27 August 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic and consequential economic crisis has had a devastating health and economic impact on lives and livelihoods throughout the world. In Australia the introduction of public health measures, informed by the best scientific and medical advice by state and federal governments have minimised the impact of COVID-19 in Australia.

The LGEA supports Covid testing programmes as well as the equitable rollout of safe and effective vaccines to Australians to help protect the community and keep workplaces safe.

OBJECTIVE

The following principles should guide the rollout of COVID-19 measures for LGEA members

- LGEA supports members having a right to choose whether to receive a vaccination. However, we also recognise that the choices members make can have consequences.

Members who choose not to get vaccinated or who choose to delay getting vaccinated may, for example:

- be required to wear a face mask whilst at work (particularly members who are in regular contact with others, when working with people who are immunocompromised and/or during periods when COVID-19 is active in the community)
- be required to undergo regular testing and isolation from work for COVID-19
- be required to perform alternative work duties
- be subject to special restrictions or limitations imposed by third parties which may impact on their ability to perform their work
- If mandatory vaccination is to be considered for certain high-risk groups consultation **must** occur at both an industry and workplace level with relevant unions. The approach to these groups should be consistent across high-risk settings and jurisdictions and a clear framework developed for implementation through Public Health Orders. Consideration must also be given to workers for whom vaccines are not recommended by their health practitioner to ensure that they are appropriately protected at work.
- Workplace measures should be implemented to encourage vaccination and remove barriers to ensuring a COVID-19 safe workplace; including paid time to be vaccinated, time to undertake a test and receive the results of the test, and any other associated activities such as pre-screening, isolation, monitoring and recovery.

END.