

Directions on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination and requirements for Structured Workplace Learning and work experience

Directions on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination

Victoria's Chief Health Officer has issued [directions on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination](#) for authorised workers, residential aged care workers, construction workers, healthcare workers, and school and early childhood staff. These directions also apply to students undertaking Structured Workplace Learning (SWL) and work experience at places that are the subject of these directions or when undertaking work experience outside of the home in industries or occupations that are the subject of these directions.

Information for workers required to be vaccinated

A list of authorised workers covered by the directions on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination is available at [Information for industry and workers required to be vaccinated](#).

From **15 October 2021**, any student undertaking SWL or work experience placements outside their ordinary place of residence in an industry that requires vaccination will be required to provide evidence to their employer that they:

- are fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- have received their first dose by 22 October 2021 and have a booking to receive their second dose by **26 November 2021**, or
- have a valid medical exemption.

Information for residential aged care facilities

Currently, to undertake SWL or work experience placements at a residential aged care facility, students are required to provide evidence to the approved provider with responsibility for the residential aged care facility that they:

- are fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- have received their first dose and have a booking to receive their second dose by **15 November 2021**, or
- have a valid medical exemption.

Information for construction sites

Currently, to undertake SWL or work experience placements on a construction site, students are required to provide evidence to the owner or principal contractor for that construction site that they:

- are fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- have received their first dose and have a booking to receive their second dose by **13 November 2021**, or

- have a valid medical exemption.

Information for healthcare settings

Currently, to undertake SWL or work experience placements in a healthcare setting, students are required to provide evidence to the operator of the healthcare setting that they:

- are fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- have received their first dose and have a booking to receive their second dose by **15 December 2021**, or
- haven't received any doses but have a booking to receive their first dose by **29 October 2021**, or
- have a valid medical exemption.

Information for school, childcare and early education services

Currently, to undertake SWL or work experience placements at a school, childcare (including outside school hours care services) or early education service, students are required to provide evidence to the operator of the school or service that they:

- are fully vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, or
- have received their first dose and have a booking to receive their second dose by **29 November 2021**, or
- haven't received any doses but have a booking to receive their first dose by **25 October 2021**, or
- have a valid medical exemption.

Frequently asked questions

Can a student undertaking SWL or work experience get an exemption from vaccination?

Students are exempt if they are unable to be vaccinated because they have a medical contraindication as advised in the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation's \(ATAGI\) clinical guidance](#) or because they are unable to receive a dose, or a further dose of a COVID-19 vaccine due to an acute medical illness.

Students will need to provide their employer with a certificate from a medical practitioner to satisfy the conditions for an exemption. In the event of an acute medical illness, the medical certification may only remain valid for a maximum period of six months.

Can a student refuse to follow requirements to provide evidence of vaccination or a valid exemption?

Where mandatory vaccination directions apply and a student undertaking SWL or work experience refuses to provide evidence of vaccination or satisfactory evidence of a valid exemption, their employer cannot allow them to enter the premises for the purpose of performing work / completing their placement.

For students undertaking SWL that is required for assessment within the VCAL/VCE/VET or International Baccalaureate, any exclusion from physically attending the premises may impact on their ability to complete their placement hours. Schools should ensure students understand the

impact of the mandatory vaccination directions that may apply to them and any potential impacts on their course completion.

Can an employer request a student to provide evidence of vaccination or a valid exemption where there are no mandatory directions requiring this?

Yes, an employer can request that a student voluntarily provides vaccination information, even where there are no directions requiring this. In these circumstances, it is up to the student to make a decision as to whether they wish to disclose information about their COVID-19 vaccination status to their employer.

If a student refuses to disclose their vaccination information to an employer and the employer is not comfortable with the placement proceeding on that basis, then the employer may choose not to proceed with the placement. If this occurs, the school should continue to support the student to make suitable alternative arrangements.

Are schools required to collect vaccination information from students before they commence SWL or work experience placements?

The employer must collect and record vaccination information from students before placements commence.

It is recommended that the student and the parent/guardian (if the student is under 18 years of age) complete one of the following documents, whichever is relevant, as an acknowledgement and agreement that COVID-19 may have changed the proposed work environment, and that the employer may request the student to provide evidence of vaccination or a valid exemption.

- [Additional Structured Workplace Learning Form \(COVID-19\) \(docx - 98.98kb\)](#)
- [Additional Work Experience Form \(COVID-19\) \(docx - 99.01kb\)](#).

A copy of this form should be attached to the SWL or Work Experience Arrangement Form kept at the school.

Further information

Additional information about mandatory COVID-19 vaccination is available at [Information for industry and workers required to be vaccinated](#).