

COVID-19 Vaccination Information for Volunteers

Coronavirus
(COVID-19)

OCTOBER 2021

CHO Directions No 55 for mandatory vaccination of workers to attend the workplace

- The COVID-19 vaccine is our best defence against the virus and the key to protecting our vulnerable populations, our workers and our health system from being overwhelmed.
- As we work to implement the NT's Roadmap toward COVID-Safe Freedoms, it is critical that we provide our community, our businesses and our industry with certainty as we start to open up.
- The Northern Territory Government has announced the introduction of Chief Health Officer (CHO) [Direction No. 55: Directions for mandatory vaccination of workers to attend the workplace](#).
- This Direction makes the COVID-19 vaccination mandatory for many workers across the Northern Territory by the end of the year. This also applies to all volunteers.
- Volunteers are defined as a worker, as per Section 7 (1) of the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011*
- For those who the CHO Direction applies, in order for volunteers to continue working in the same role, they must have their:
 - First COVID-19 vaccine dose by **12 November 2021**
 - Second COVID-19 vaccine dose by **24 December 2021**
- If you're not sure if the Direction applies to you, ask yourself these three questions:
 1. In my volunteer work, do I come into contact with vulnerable people?
 2. Is my volunteer work at a higher risk of infection?
 3. Does my volunteer work include infrastructure or logistics that are critical to the Territory?

If your answer is maybe, or I don't know, you need to get the COVID-19 vaccine. If you're volunteer work includes interacting with members of the public, then you need to get the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Vulnerable people include those who are aged under 12 years, are an Aboriginal person, at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and those who cannot be vaccinated due to severe reactions to all of the approved vaccines.
- Not every person is able to get the COVID-19 vaccine. The CHO Direction includes an exemption in the event that a person cannot receive a vaccine due to a proven medical contraindication to all available COVID-19 vaccines.
- The CHO Direction does not provide an exemption for someone who is able to get the vaccine, but chooses not to get the vaccine.
- Under the CHO Direction, the organisation or workplace operator must keep a register of each worker /or volunteer's vaccination status as well as a record of the steps they have taken to verify the worker or volunteer's vaccinations status.

- Proof of vaccination status can include a COVID-19 Digital Certificate, immunisation history statement, or a letter from a medical practitioner stating the dates and location at which a person received their COVID-19 vaccination.
- Make getting your COVID-19 vaccine a priority. Vaccine appointments are available at NT Vaccination Centres, GP Clinics, Respiratory Clinics, Pharmacies and Aboriginal Health Clinics. You can book [online](#) or call the COVID-19 Hotline on 1800 490 484.
- For more information and Frequently Asked Questions about the mandatory vaccine visit <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/stay-safe/freedoms-and-restrictions>