

## COVID-19 Vaccinations and mandating vaccinations

**Volunteering Australia is supportive of the Federal and State/Territory Governments' positions encouraging Australians to get vaccinated.**

*What's our position on government mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for volunteers?*

*Do we support government mandating of COVID-19 vaccinations for volunteers?*

- **It is the responsibility of governments (Federal and State/Territory as appropriate) to determine whether workers, including volunteers, should be subject to mandatory vaccinations, drawing on the latest health advice.**
- Governments should undertake 'risk and benefit assessments' prior to mandating vaccinations. These assessments should specifically consider volunteers and the distinct characteristics of volunteers and volunteer roles.
- In the implementation of mandates, specific risks and challenges for volunteers need to be addressed. This means, for example, ensuring messaging clearly signals whether volunteers are included in the mandate; extending grant relief measures to all organisations impacted by the mandate; making it as easy as possible for volunteers to get vaccinated (e.g., ensuring volunteers can access on-site vaccinations); and considering mitigations for the potential decline of the volunteer workforce.
- Volunteers and organisations should seek out the latest advice on the mandating of vaccines, as this is undergoing frequent change.

*What's our position on organisations mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for volunteers?*

*Do we support organisations mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for volunteers?*

- **Organisations need to carefully balance safety benefits with other legal requirements when considering whether to make vaccinations mandatory for workers. It is wise to seek legal advice.**
- NFP Law has produced an informative legal [factsheet](#) for community organisations around their rights and duty-of-care for volunteers and the vaccine.
- We encourage volunteers, particularly those working with vulnerable people (including First Nations people, people with a disability, people who are immuno-compromised, seniors etc.) to ask organisations about their policies in this regard.
- Organisations should clearly communicate any mandating of vaccines and support volunteers to access vaccinations and/or consider changes to volunteer roles if a volunteer is unable to be vaccinated.

Current documents:

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Vaccinations-in-Aged-Care-Position-Statement-V-1-FINAL-26-July-2021.pdf>

<https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19-Vaccinations-and-Volunteers-Information-Sheet-12-August-2021.pdf> (needs updating?)

[COVID-19-POSITION-PAPER-3-Volunteering-vaccinations-and-being-COVIDSafe\\_Version-3-13-August-2021.pdf \(volunteeringaustralia.org\)](#) (needs updating?)

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