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Sent: Friday, 7 October 2022 5:06 PM
To: DIST_ALL_ACCOUNTS <DIST_ALL_ACCOUNTS@dcs.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Commissioner's Update - Vaccination Update



Commissioner's Update

Dear Colleagues

I would like to acknowledge and thank all Corrective Services NSW and private centres' staff for their response and efforts in supporting CSNSW operations throughout the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the coming months there will be some changes to COVID-19 restrictions as we move towards 'Living with COVID-19'.

We saw 99% compliance across our workforce in relation to vaccination and it this has certainly protected us as we faced the pandemic in NSW- this is an effort we should all be proud of.

The current advice from health experts is that vaccination against COVID 19 protects individuals against serious illness and death but does not impact transmission for the current COVID 19 variants circulating in NSW. Therefore, it is timely for CSNSW to review and revise its settings on vaccination for staff and visitors in correctional settings.

As the pandemic has changed, we too must adjust our settings and following robust risk assessment processes and consultation, from **10 October 2022**, CSNSW staff members will no longer be required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition of employment.

Whilst vaccination status may no longer be a condition of employment or entry into CSNSW locations, all staff members are strongly encouraged to continue to maintain their vaccination against COVID-19 and emerging variants. Maintenance of up-to-date vaccination is an effective risk mitigation strategy against serious illness for yourself, your colleagues and inmates.

All Visitors/Contractors/third party organisations to CSNSW locations (including Correctional Centres) will also no longer be required to show proof of vaccination to enter.

What does this mean for you?

- Current vaccinated staff members need take no further action.
- Staff members who have been liaising with Human Resources (HR) about their vaccination status will be contacted directly by CSNSW HR to discuss options specific to individual circumstances.
- Individuals who are no longer employed by CSNSW (due to vaccination status) may reapply to work for CSNSW through normal recruitment processes. Re-employment is dependent on the individual meeting the appropriate recruitment requirements. Vaccination status will not be considered as a conduct issue during the recruitment processes.

Any enquiries relating to vaccination and employment status, or general employment enquiries should be directed to csnswhr.support@justice.nsw.gov.au Staff members are advised that there will be further communications from HR outlining policy and procedure about these changes.

The COVID-19 Command Post continues to review current COVID-19 restrictions and is making regular updates to Commissioner's Instructions. These instructions evolve with health advice, whilst still maintaining adequate risk mitigation strategies to support the safety of staff, inmates, and visitors to CSNSW locations. Staff are reminded to review Commissioner's Instructions on a regular basis to ensure compliance.

Commissioner's Instructions can be located on the below link:
<https://justicensw.sharepoint.com/sites/csnswresources/SitePages/09-commissioner-instructions.aspx>

For any general COVID 19 enquiries please contact the COVID 19 Command Post CSNSWCoronavirusCommand@justice.nsw.gov.au

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COMMISSIONER

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