

Issue 43 of 2021 – 7 August

## URGENT COVID-19 UPDATE

# NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES FURTHER RE-OPENING OF THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN THE GREATER SYDNEY AREA

Members are advised that the NSW Government has [announced](#) a number of major changes for the construction industry. These changes will take effect at 12.01am on Wednesday 11 August 2021. (Public Health Order to be gazetted early next week).

### All sites in Greater Sydney can reopen:

- This includes sites within the eight affected Local Government Areas (LGA's): Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool and Parramatta.
- Construction sites (unoccupied) will be capped at 50% of their maximum daily project workforce to reduce contacts and mobility
- It will be up to principal contractors and / or site owners to determine how that 50% is allocated between different types of personnel and workers. This recognises that worksites have different needs depending on the stage of construction.
- Sites are still required to have a COVID-19 safety plan in place.
- These initiatives complement the COVID safe measures already put in place right across Greater Sydney.

### Construction workers on unoccupied sites will be added to the authorised worker list:

- This means construction workers from the eight affected LGA's of concern (identified above) can work on unoccupied sites within their LGA, or leave their LGA for work, but they must meet vaccination conditions.
- The Public Health Order only allows the workers to leave for the purposes of work. That means when they are not working, stay at home restrictions still apply.
- Workers from the affected LGA's who do not meet the vaccination conditions may not attend a construction site for work, including a construction site in the LGA of their residence.
- Workers outside the affected LGA's may travel into the LGA's for work and are not subject to vaccination requirements.

**Vaccination requirements:**

- Vaccination requirements have been put in place for workers who reside within the affected LGA's due to the high prevalence of COVID infections in those areas. There are known benefits of vaccinations for protecting those inoculated, as well as reducing the risk of passing on the infection.
- Construction workers from affected LGA's will be permitted to work within their LGA or leave their LGA only if they have evidence of one of the following:
  - both vaccinations, or
  - one vaccination at least three weeks prior, or
  - one vaccination less than three weeks prior and a negative COVID-19 test no older than 72 hours. (NSW is currently trialling rapid antigen testing and when approved by NSW Health, that form of testing may be used.)
- Evidence of vaccination is available via the Medicare app or website.
- Exemptions will be in place for individuals with medical or other conditions that make vaccination unsuitable.

**Super Sunday vaccination clinic:**

- Construction workers will be prioritised for vaccination at a dedicated clinic to be hosted at Sydney Olympic Park on Sunday 15 August.
- The clinic will administer the Astra Zeneca vaccine, which is also readily available at some GP's and pharmacies.
- Vaccinations help protect the health and wellbeing of construction workers, their families and the broader community.
- All construction workers, including those outside of the affected LGAs, are encouraged to get vaccinated. In particular, workers from the affected LGAs are urged to get their vaccination as soon as possible.

Over the last ten days industry has held daily meetings with various Government and industry representatives, to arrive at the latest changes to enable a further re-opening of the industry.

To ensure that the industry can continue to operate, it is critical that it complies with the COVID-19 safety plan and associated protocols.

The Association will continue to provide updated information as it comes to hand.

If Members have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Association's Industrial Relations Department or the Safety Department on 02 8586 3555.