

Issue 79 of 2021 – 26 November

## COVID-19 UPDATE FURTHER EASING OF RESTRICTIONS ANNOUNCED

Members are advised that the NSW Government has updated the roadmap for easing restrictions after the State reaches the 95 per cent double dose vaccination target, or 15 December 2021, whichever comes first.

Members should note that adjustments to current settings which are scheduled to occur when the above milestone is reached are;

- Density limits lifted (currently one person per 2sqm),
- COVID-19 Safety Plans will be **optional** for businesses and will continue to be supported by SafeWork NSW,
- Face masks will no longer be required when working indoors, on construction sites or when carpooling with other persons who are not members of the same household. Face mask will only be required on public transport and planes, at airports and for indoor front-of-house hospitality staff who are not fully vaccinated (currently all indoors front-of-house hospitality staff regardless of vaccinations status are required to wear a face mask).

**Members should also be aware that face masks will continue to be strongly encouraged in settings where you cannot socially distance. Therefore, this may apply to certain working environments, lunchrooms etc.**

- QR check-ins will no longer be required for construction sites, offices, factories etc. QR check-ins will only be required at high-risk venues including hospitals, aged and disability care facilities, gyms, places of worship, funerals or memorial services, personal services (e.g. hairdressers and beauty salons), limited hospitality settings (including pubs, small bars, registered clubs and nightclubs) and for indoor music festivals with more than 1,000 people; and
- Proof of vaccination will no longer be required by a Public Health Order for most activities. However, businesses can still require proof at their own discretion. Proof of vaccination will still be required for indoor music festivals with more that 1,000 people.



Members are also advised that with more than 92 per cent of people over 16 now vaccinated in NSW ahead of the summer festive season, the NSW Government is continuing to take a responsible and measured approach to reopening. In order to maintain high levels of immunity across the community, NSW Health is rolling out a booster vaccination program at its clinics to individuals aged 18 years and older who received their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine six months or more ago.

Premier Dominic Perrottet said the easing of restrictions was only possible because NSW is amongst the highest vaccinated populations in the world and the introduction of the booster shot program.

“We’re leading the world when it comes to vaccinations and that is a tremendous achievement we can all be proud of because it has allowed us to return to normal as quickly and safely as possible,” Mr Perrottet said.

“The easing of these restrictions will allow people to get out and enjoy summer providing a boost for some of our hardest hit industries as we do everything we can to ensure we keep people safe as we learn to live with COVID.”

The NSW Government will continue to review the roadmap settings and make any appropriate changes based on the current case numbers and vaccination rates.

Should Members have any further enquiries regarding the matters contained in this e-circular, please do not hesitate to contact the Association’s Industrial Relations Department or Safety Department on 02 8586 3555.