

28 Carvell Street
Calingiri, WA 6569
03 December 2021



PUBLIC HEALTH ORDER

[Covid-19 Vaccination Mandate](#) *follow up advice.*

Dear Shire of Victoria Plains Bush Fire Volunteers,

On Monday 22 November 2021 the Shire of Victoria Plains released a letter of advice to Volunteer Bush Firefighters within the Shire of Victoria Plains, this follow up letter is to provide further clarification and information on the matter now that new information has come to light.

Emergency Service Workers (*Bush Fire Brigade Members Only*) are required to

- Be partly vaccinated prior to **1 January 2022** or have a valid exemption; and,
- Be fully Vaccinated prior to **1 February 2022** or have a valid exemption

Important information relating to spontaneous volunteers (Farmer Response).

The Shire has sought further clarification as to who an emergency services worker is.

We are please to state that advice has been provided that spontaneous volunteers **were not intended** to be included with in these directions.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Q: I am medically unable to get the Covid-19 vaccinations, can I still be a Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Member?

A: Yes, you will need to provide evidence stating that you are an exempt person as per [s. 30 of the order No. 2](#).

Q: I am worried about the security of my vaccine information, is it secure?

A: Yes, the information collected is stored on the Shire's database that cannot be accessed without certain permissions. This information if required by law, can be provided to authorised persons.

Q: I am a Bush Fire Brigade Volunteer, if I refuse to get a vaccination, can I still attend incidents (Fires)?

A: Unless exempt or under s. 8(c) No, the Shire are legally obliged to ensure that only those who fulfill the requirements are eligible to attend incidents.

Q: I am a Spontaneous Volunteer (Farmer Response) and I am not vaccinated, can I still respond?

A: Yes, late advice has been provided to the Shire stating that only volunteer bush fire brigade members were intended to be captured in this mandate. Spontaneous volunteers maybe relieved once sufficient response is available, the Incident Controller will determine this on a case-by-case basis.

Q: Does the Shire still encourage Vehicle Identifier stickers with Vaccination proof?

A: Yes, the Shire strongly encourages Vehicle Identifier Stickers for those that intend to attend fires regularly throughout the summer season, the ID Stickers provide ease of access through road blocks and provides Incident Controllers the confidence that those with these stickers are trained and equipped to carry out the role safely.

Q: Where can I get more information on Covid-19

A: Department of Health website https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/articles/a_e/coronavirus

Q: What are the penalties if I was to ignore these requirements.

A: Penalties are up to \$20,000 for an individual or \$100,000 for bodies corporate

Q: Where can I get vaccinated?

A: visit www.rollup.wa.gov.au

Sincerely,
Glenda Teede,
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Victoria Plains