

South Australia

Emergency Management (South Australia Police Workers Vaccination) (COVID-19) Direction 2021

under section 25 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004*

Preamble

- 1 On 22 March 2020 Grantley Stevens, Commissioner of Police, being the State Co-ordinator for the State of South Australia pursuant to section 14 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004* (the *Act*), declared pursuant to section 23 of the Act that a Major Emergency is occurring in respect of the outbreak of the Human Disease named COVID-19 within South Australia.
- 2 Now I, Grantley Stevens, being of the opinion that this is necessary to achieve the purposes of the Act, give the following directions pursuant to section 25 of the Act.

1—Short title

This direction may be cited as the *Emergency Management (South Australia Police Workers Vaccination) (COVID-19) Direction 2021*.

2—Purpose

The purpose of this direction is to—

- (a) maintain the provision of police services operating in the State of South Australia despite the presence of COVID-19 in the community;
- (b) minimise the disruption to those services due to the spread of COVID-19 amongst police workers;
- (c) minimise the disruption to those services due to police workers being furloughed following possible exposure to COVID-19; and
- (d) reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19 by police workers to vulnerable members of the community.

3—Definitions

- (1) In this direction—

ATAGI means the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation;

police worker means—

- (a) persons appointed under the *Police Act 1998*;
- (b) public sector employees of the South Australian Police Department employed under the *Public Sector Act 2009* or any other Act;

- (c) persons appointed under the *Protective Security Act 2007*;
- (d) contractors engaging in work or performing duties at a South Australia Police setting;
- (e) volunteers engaging in work or performing duties for South Australia Police or the South Australian Police Department;

South Australia Police setting means—

- (a) a police station; and
- (b) a police custodial facility; and
- (c) any other premises controlled by the South Australia Police or the South Australian Police Department (for example a premises owned or leased by or on behalf of the South Australia Police).

4—Vaccination requirements and compliance for police workers

- (1) A police worker must not engage in work or perform duties of a police worker from 15 November 2021 unless—
 - (a) the police worker has received at least one dose of a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved COVID-19 vaccine; and
 - (b) the police worker has received, or has evidence of a booking to receive, a second dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine within the interval after the first dose recommended by the ATAGI for that COVID-19 vaccine.

Note—

The ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccine is available at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-atagi-clinical-guidance-on-covid-19-vaccine-in-australia-in-2021>.

- (2) A police worker subject to the requirement in subclause (1) must provide the officer in charge or delegate of the South Australia Police setting with proof of their vaccination status upon request.
- (3) Despite subclause (1), a police worker may engage in work or perform duties of a police worker if—
 - (a) —
 - (i) the person has a medical certificate from a legally qualified medical practitioner certifying that the person has a medical exemption from receiving the COVID-19 vaccine on either a permanent or temporary basis in accordance with the guidelines published from time to time by ATAGI; and
 - (ii) the certificate specifies the nature of the exemption and the basis on which it applies; and
 - (iii) the Chief Public Health Officer or her delegate has endorsed the exemption; and
 - (iv) the person provides the officer in charge or delegate of the South Australia Police setting with a copy of the endorsement provided under paragraph (iii);

Note—

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The ATAGI expanded guidance on acute major medical conditions that warrant a temporary medical exemption relevant for COVID-19 vaccines is available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-expanded-guidance-on-temporary-medical-exemptions-for-covid-19-vaccines>;

- (d) the person is a contractor engaging in work or performing duties at a South Australia Police setting on a single occasion or on an infrequent and irregular basis.

IMPORTANT—FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS DIRECTION IS AN OFFENCE.

This direction operates from the 15th day of NOVEMBER 2021 at 0001 hours

SIGNED at ADELAIDE on this 26th day of OCTOBER 2021 at 17.16 hours


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GRANTLEY STEVENS
STATE CO-ORDINATOR

