



# Mandatory vaccination – building and construction workers FAQs

*The information in this FAQ addresses questions specific to building and construction workers. Refer to the Department of Health's [Mandatory Vaccination FAQ](#) for additional information.*

## **Where can I access the Directions?**

The Directions that prevent building and construction industry workers from entering or remaining at building and construction industry sites if they have not been vaccinated are available [online](#).

## **Where can I get vaccinated?**

You can get vaccinated at a metropolitan Perth vaccination community clinic or regional vaccination clinic, participating GP or GP respiratory clinic, pharmacy or Aboriginal Medical Service.

You can make a booking or drop-in to a Perth metropolitan vaccination community clinic or regional vaccination clinic. Find your nearest location by visiting [www.rollup.wa.gov.au](http://www.rollup.wa.gov.au).

## **Why are building and construction workers required to be vaccinated against COVID-19?**

Building and construction is recognised as critical work for the community, which will need to continue in the event of community transmission of COVID-19.

Working at a building or construction site when there is COVID-19 in the community may present you with a higher risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 due to the difficulty in maintaining a physical distance with others and difficulty in following hygiene measures (such as regular hand washing). Even if you wear personal protective equipment (such as masks and eye wear) and are able to keep a physical distance between you and other workers, there is still a risk of COVID-19 transmission between you and your colleagues. Such sites have been the source of COVID-19 outbreaks in the Eastern States via transmission between workers.

Unless you have an exemption, you need to have had your first dose by 1 January 2022 and second dose by 1 February 2022.

## **What building and construction sites are affected?**

Mandatory vaccination applies to workers at any building and construction site where work is being carried out by a 'building and construction worker'.

A building or construction worker is anyone who carries out activities or undertakes work at a building and construction site.

Building and construction work is as defined in the *Building Act 2011*, the *Construction Contracts Act 2004* and the *Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996* (see Appendix 1).

In addition to builders, site managers, labourers, tradespeople, this will include workers such as architects, draftspeople, portaloos service people, development company executives, food vendors, apprentices, trainees and volunteers, and people who are carrying out a statutory function under State law.

Building and construction site visitors, such as the homeowner and their family and friends, are not required to be vaccinated.

Both residential and commercial building and construction sites are included with the exception of:

- a home someone lives in
- a site where a building or demolition permit is not required

**Are administrative and ancillary staff who work in an office and do not visit the construction site required to be vaccinated?**

No, only those who work on or visit for work purposes, the construction site, are required to be vaccinated.

If a temporary site office is located on the same site as the construction site, staff working in the temporary site office must be vaccinated, regardless of their role.

**Are volunteers, apprentices, trainees or those on work experience required to be vaccinated?**

Yes, the requirement to be vaccinated applies to all people who carry out activities or provide goods or services at building and construction sites. This includes volunteers, trainees or those on work experience.

**Are staff who work from home, or at an office not a building and construction site, required to be vaccinated? This could include the building company home base or an architecture and design office.**

No, only employees who attend the building and construction site are required to be vaccinated to work. They would need to be vaccinated to attend a site for work purposes.

The Department of Health encourages all people to get vaccinated. Vaccination significantly reduces the risk of serious illness and death from COVID-19 and reduces the rate of transmission.

**Are delivery drivers to building and construction sites required to be vaccinated?**

Yes, if you attend a building and construction site as a delivery driver, you must be vaccinated. This is regardless of whether you have contact with building and construction workers at the site or how often you deliver to the site.

**Are occasional site visitors such as business executives, designers and other service contractors required to be vaccinated?**

Yes, any person who is employed or otherwise engaged to carry out activities at a building and construction site must be vaccinated.

## **What evidence of vaccination status must be shown to an emergency officer or nominated officer under the direction?**

If an emergency officer or nominated officer directs a building or construction worker to provide evidence of their vaccination status, this evidence must be in a form that is approved by the Chief Health Officer, which is the forms of evidence in that approval.

More information is available in the [Directions](#).

## **How does the owner, occupier, operator or person in charge of a building and construction site ensure that they are in compliance with the Directions with regards to people that are not their employees (i.e. contractors, subcontractors) that come on site?**

Where required by the Directions, the owner, occupier, operator or person in charge of a building and construction site must take all reasonable steps to ensure that building and construction workers who attend the site are vaccinated or exempt. To achieve this, it would be appropriate to undertake a majority of the following steps for your building and construction site:

- Place a sign at the entry point to the workplace stating that, by entering the building and construction site, the building and construction worker is confirming that they are vaccinated or exempt as legally required under the Directions.
- Incorporate a declaration as a part of a site check-in process that states the building and construction worker has complied with the mandatory vaccination requirements for that building and construction site.
- Include a clause in agreements, work orders or purchase orders, detailing that by agreeing to provide the goods or services the contractor or supplier declares that their employees and contractors who will attend the building and construction site are vaccinated or exempt in accordance with the Directions.
- Provide a letter to the contractor to ensure that as a contractor they:
  - are aware of the Directions
  - have met their obligations to collect and maintain a record of the vaccination status of their direct employees
  - are not to roster on or permit any of their employees onto the building and construction site who are not compliant with the Directions; and
  - must ensure that any of their subcontractors are similarly informed of their obligations.

What would be considered reasonable steps for one building and construction site will not necessarily be the same in other sites, and you may wish to take advice on what would be reasonable steps for your circumstances.

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**This document can be made available in alternative formats  
on request for a person with disability.**

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[health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au)

## Appendix 1 – Building and construction work definitions

| <b>Building Act 2011</b>  | <b>Construction Contracts Act 2004</b>  | <b>Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996</b>  |
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| <p><b>building work</b> means —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the construction, erection, assembly or placement of a building or an incidental structure; or</li> <li>(b) the renovation, alteration, extension, improvement or repair of a building or an incidental structure; or</li> <li>(c) the assembly, reassembly or securing of a relocated building or a relocated incidental structure; or</li> <li>(d) the changing of ground levels of land for the purposes of work of a kind mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) to an extent that could adversely affect land beyond its boundaries; or</li> <li>(e) site work on any land for the purposes of, or required because of, work of a kind mentioned in — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d); or</li> <li>(ii) paragraph (a) or (b) of the definition of <b>demolition work</b>;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(f) other prescribed work,</li> </ul> | <p><b>construction work</b> means any of the following work on a site in WA —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) reclaiming, draining, or preventing the subsidence, movement or erosion of, land;</li> <li>(b) installing, altering, repairing, restoring, maintaining, extending, dismantling, demolishing, or removing, any works, apparatus, fittings, machinery, or plant, associated with any work referred to in paragraph (a);</li> <li>(c) constructing the whole or a part of any civil works, or a building or structure, that forms or will form, whether permanently or not and whether in WA or not, part of land or the sea bed whether above or below it;</li> <li>(d) fixing or installing on or in any thing referred to in paragraph (c) any fittings forming, or to form, whether permanently or not, part of the thing, including — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) fittings for electricity, gas, water, fuel oil, air, sanitation, irrigation, telecommunications, air-conditioning, heating, ventilation, fire protection, cleaning, the security of the thing, and the safety of people; and</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p><b>construction work</b> means —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) the construction, erection, installation, alteration, repair, <u>maintenance</u>, cleaning, painting, renewal, removal, excavation, dismantling or <u>demolition</u> of, or addition to, any building or structure, <u>or any work in connection with any of those things, that is done at or adjacent to the place where the building or structure is located</u>; or</li> <li>(b) work on which a hoisting appliance or any scaffold or shoring is used or intended to be used; or</li> <li>(c) work in driving or extracting piles, sheet piles or trench sheet; or</li> <li>(d) work in laying any pipe or work in lining pipe that is done at or adjacent to the place where the pipe is laid or to be laid; or</li> <li>(e) work in sinking or lining or altering, repairing, maintaining, renewing, removing, or dismantling a well or borehole; or</li> <li>(f) road works, earthworks or reclamation; or</li> <li>(g) work in laying an underground cable or work related to laying an underground cable that is done at or adjacent to the place where the cable is laid or to be laid;</li> </ul> <p><b>building or structure</b> includes any erection, edifice, wall, chimney, fence, bridge, dam, reservoir,</p> |

but does not include work of a kind prescribed for the purposes of this definition as not being building work;

- (ii) lifts, escalators, insulation, furniture and furnishings;
- (e) altering, repairing, restoring, maintaining, extending, dismantling, demolishing or removing any thing referred to in paragraph (c) or any fittings described in paragraph (d) that form part of that thing;
- (f) any work that is preparatory to, necessary for, an integral part of, or for the completion of, any work referred to in paragraph (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e), including —
  - (i) site or earth works, excavating, earthmoving, tunnelling or boring; and
  - (ii) laying foundations; and
  - (iii) erecting, maintaining or dismantling temporary works, a temporary building, or a temporary structure including a crane or other lifting equipment, and scaffolding; and
  - (iv) cleaning, painting, decorating or treating any surface; and
  - (v) site restoration and landscaping;
- (g) any work that is prescribed by regulations to be construction work for the purposes of this Act.

(3) Despite subsection (2) construction work does not include any of the following work on a site in WA —

wharf, jetty, or ship or other floating structure, and includes any part of any of those things;

**construction site** means a workplace at which construction work is done and includes any adjoining area where plant or other materials used or to be used in connection with that work are located or kept and over which the main contractor has control for the purpose of doing the construction work;

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) drilling for the purposes of discovering or extracting oil or natural gas, whether on land or not;</li><li>(b) constructing a shaft, pit or quarry, or drilling, for the purposes of discovering or extracting any mineral bearing or other substance;</li><li>(c) fabricating or assembling items of plant used for extracting or processing oil, natural gas or any derivative of natural gas, or any mineral bearing or other substance;</li><li><i>[(d) deleted]</i></li><li>(e) work prescribed by the regulations not to be construction work for the purposes of this Act.</li></ul> <p>(4) In this Act —<br/><b>construction work</b> does not include constructing the whole or part of any watercraft.</p> |  |
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