

# COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs

2021–22: DOING THE  
BEST WE CAN



## Purpose

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 vaccinations in a Life Saving Victoria (LSV) and life saving club context.

**Note: Information in these FAQs is current as of 29 October 2021. These FAQs are subject to change and will be updated based on the latest information available from the Victorian Government.**

### 1. What is LSV's current position on COVID-19 vaccinations?

To comply with the latest Victorian Government roadmap, members, employees, industry and community partners, contractors and visitors **need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19** before:

- attending an LSV or club facility;
- delivering an LSV or club service in person; or
- participating in an LSV or club activity in person.

### 2. Why do our people need to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

LSV and all our affiliated life saving clubs are required to comply with the Chief Health Officer's (CHO) directions regarding vaccinations, in addition to other COVIDSafe measures to protect public health and ensure the safety of all members, employees, industry and community partners, contractors and visitors, as well as the communities we live in and serve.

### **3. Who is required to be vaccinated against COVID-19?**

Anyone aged 16 years and older who is attending a facility or is involved with any of our services, programs, and/or activities, must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This is based on the multi-use nature of our facilities and the varied involvement and engagement of our people with lifesaving activities across various settings.

Our facilities and activities include clubs; beach areas designated for programs including nippers, training and competition; affiliated hospitality venues, including BBQs; warehouses; offices; and rescue craft and vehicles (e.g. cars, IRBs, helicopters, jet skis, etc.).

Additionally, anyone aged 12 years and above who is completing their surf rescue certificate (SRC), bronze medallion or participating in lifesaving patrols is considered a worker, and therefore must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate.

People who have a valid exemption as per the CHO directions preventing them from being vaccinated against COVID-19 are exempt from the above.

### **4. What if my child turns 16 during the season?**

Given that anyone aged 12 and over is eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19, members turning 16 during the season must ensure they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before their birthday to continue attending venues and/or undertaking lifesaving activities.

### **5. Do nippers have to be vaccinated against COVID-19?**

Nippers do not need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate, unless they are also completing their SRC/bronze or participating in lifesaving patrols, and therefore are considered a worker.

However, we strongly encourage everyone aged 12 and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19, in line with the government's public health advice. Note: age requirements for vaccination may change, subject to CHO directions.

### **6. Are nippers' parents/guardians required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for a child to participate in the Nipper Education Program?**

No. However, parents/guardians who are not fully vaccinated will not be able to enter the nipper education program venue area, including the club facilities, or be involved with nipper programs in any capacity. This extends to any person accompanying a nipper to the program who is not fully vaccinated.

For volunteer-run activities such as nippers to be possible, we rely on the assistance of parents/guardians being actively involved with programs. We therefore strongly encourage parents/guardians to be fully vaccinated and engage in the programs.

**7. Do junior athletes have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate in competition and training\*?**

The CHO directions do not require junior athletes (under 16 years old) to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate in community sport.

However, anyone aged 12 and above who is involved with community sport and is also completing their SRC, bronze medallion or participating in lifesaving patrols is considered a worker, and therefore must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to commencing these activities.

We continue to strongly encourage everyone aged 12 and above to be vaccinated against COVID-19, in line with the government's public health advice. Note: age requirements for vaccination may change, subject to CHO directions.

**8. Do senior and masters athletes have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate in competition and training\*?**

Any athletes aged 16 years and older who are involved with community sport must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Additionally, anyone aged 12 and above who is completing their SRC, Bronze Medallion or participating in lifesaving patrols is considered a worker, and therefore must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to commencing these activities.

**9. Is there a COVID-19 vaccination requirement to participate in a surf rescue certificate (SRC) course or participate in a lifesaving patrol?**

Yes. This includes members aged 12 and above, eligible to participate in an SRC course.

**10. Are there any exemptions for the requirement to be vaccinated?**

Yes. Based on the [public health advice](#), exemptions do apply.

The Chief Health Officer has declared that from **6pm, Friday 29 October**, only the **Australian Immunisation Register medical exemption form** is to be used to provide patients' **proof of a medical exemption** to any vaccination requirements in Victoria.

If a person holds an exemption letter that isn't the Australian Immunisation Register form – such as just a standard doctor's certificate – they will need to return to their medical practitioner to submit the form by **12 November 2021**. They can continue to use a doctor's certificate up to that date.

It will also mean that those who don't meet the specific medical contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination according to ATAGI guidance will not have a valid exemption after 12 November 2021.

**11. When do I need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by?**

You only need to be fully vaccinated prior to visiting an LSV or club facility or attending an activity in person. For example, if your first contact with LSV or a club is in mid- November 2021, you only need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before this date.

**12. Is it compulsory to tell LSV and my club if I am vaccinated or not?**

Yes. Under the CHO's directions, LSV and clubs are required to collect and store members' and employees' COVID-19 vaccination information. For this reason, it is compulsory to provide LSV and your club with information regarding your vaccination status.

Collection and storage of vaccination information will be in line with the [COVID-19 Vaccination Privacy Notice](#).

**13. Can a club member continue their membership if they don't comply with LSV's current position as per the CHO directions?**

Yes. It is expected that clubs will accept membership applications from unvaccinated members, however, these members will be unable to:

- attend an LSV or club facility;
- deliver an LSV or club service in person; or
- participate in an LSV or club activity in person;

until such a time when they are fully vaccinated.

**14. Can club members receive refunds for their membership?**

Yes, refunds are available as per the relevant club refund policy. A refund policy template is available from LSV for use by clubs.

**15. As a paid or unpaid worker, what if I choose not to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and don't have a valid exemption?**

If you do not intend to get the COVID-19 vaccine and you do not have a valid exemption, you should advise your supervisor/club administrator and explain your reason as soon as possible. The requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is an inherent work requirement and constitutes a lawful and reasonable direction. LSV is currently developing the policies that will guide members, employees, and supervisors/club administrators regarding this requirement, which we will share in the coming weeks.

**16. How will vaccination status be recorded and verified?**

There will be two processes for recording and verifying members' and employees' vaccination status:

1. Complete the LSV [Vaccination Status Form](#); and
2. Check in onsite using the Service Victoria App (QR code).

Completing both processes will be required to attend all LSV and club facilities, engage in service delivery or participate in in-person activities.

**17. Once I upload my vaccination certificate to the LSV Vaccination Status Form and it has been verified by LSV, will it be removed from the database?**

Yes. Once LSV has verified your vaccination certificate, the certificate you uploaded will be deleted by LSV.

**18. Which club members need to complete the LSV Vaccination Status Form?**

While clubs may request all members complete the LSV Vaccination Status Form, at a minimum, it must be completed by members in the following positions/roles:

- Patrolling member
- Club committee member
- Administrators
- Age manager
- Coach
- Official
- Water safety
- Nipper parent/guardian attending program in person
- Training course participant\*
- Course, event, nipper program helper
- Athletes aged 16 and over\*

*\* includes anyone undertaking the SRC or bronze medallion.*

For members not listed above (e.g. social members using café or restaurant facilities only), the Service Victoria app (QR code) will be used upon arrival/entry to verify their vaccination status.

**19. Who needs to check in onsite using the Service Victoria QR code?**

Anyone who attends any of our facilities or is involved with any of our programs or events in any capacity is required to check in using the Service Victoria App (QR code), which includes vaccination status.

[Click here](#) to find out how to link your vaccination certificate to the Service Victoria App.

**20. Who does members, employees, industry and community partners, contractors and visitors include?**

<b>Members</b>	All members, including but not limited to: patrolling members, trainers and assessors, coaches, age managers, council officers, committee members, administrators, officials, nippers, parents or guardians of nippers, athletes and social members
<b>Employees</b>	Full-time, part-time, and casual employees
<b>Industry and community partners</b>	LSV service members and licensees
<b>Contractors</b>	Anyone contracted to undertake work for or on behalf of LSV
<b>Visitors</b>	Anyone visiting an LSV or club facility or attending an activity in person

**21. Who do I contact at LSV for any specific questions?**

Please email: [healthalerts@lsv.com.au](mailto:healthalerts@lsv.com.au)

**22. I began a training course prior to 26 October 2021, and I will not be fully vaccinated by this date, can I still continue my training course?**

Yes, as an exception, you may continue the course if you have completed the LSV Vaccination Status form to confirm you have already had one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and that your second dose is booked.

**23. Do I need to be fully vaccinated to start a course after 26 October 2021?**

Yes, you will be required to be fully vaccinated and have completed the LSV Vaccination Status Form in order to participate in any onsite training or other LSV or club activities, commencing after 26 October 2021.