



FOR A SAFER STATE

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WHY THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND THE COMMUNITY

ARM YOURSELF AGAINST COVID-19

I am pleased to see and hear about the increasing numbers of staff and volunteers who are getting vaccinated against COVID-19 each day.

Vaccination is our best way forward to ensure we maintain business continuity and continue delivery of emergency services response in Western Australia.

It is my priority to undertake measures that ensure the safety of all of you and the communities we serve.

Why the push to get DFES staff and volunteers vaccinated?

We are fire and emergency services and our role is to keep Western Australians safe.

In our frontline operations we respond to incidents and interact with the community every single day. Often, we are providing emergency response to some of the most vulnerable members of the community across the State and we must protect them.

Behind the frontline volunteers, non-operational and corporate staff play an equally important role in supporting operations and delivering business continuity. We may be at risk of being unable to deliver essential services to the business if there is an outbreak.

An outbreak in the WA community like we are seeing in the eastern states could impact our capacity and capability to deliver emergency services and our core business with some people unable to attend their workplace or BGU. While we are putting measures in place to reduce impact to our services, we need everyone to play their part and get vaccinated before the high-threat period begins.

We are there for the community before, during and after emergencies and scale up our response by deploying personnel to other regions as required. We need to ensure we are prepared for this by taking every precaution now to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to already vulnerable people in the community.

Why the vaccine is important?

By being vaccinated, we all reduce the risk of spread in the community, workplace, BGUs and at home.

Like any vaccine, the COVID-19 vaccine does not prevent you from getting COVID-19, however it does give you greater protection from the illness, helping to reduce the severity of your symptoms and ultimately reducing your risk of spreading it to others.



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COVID-19 variants pose a significant risk to the community and studies have shown the vaccines are effective against them.

It is important for all DFES staff and volunteers to get the vaccine to fulfil our roles of delivering fire and emergency services to the community and keeping Western Australia safe.

***ARM YOURSELF* with more information about the COVID-19 vaccine**

There is a vast amount of information about the different types of vaccines available, the efficacy of the vaccines and the clinical testing that has been undertaken on the [WA Health website](#) and [Australian Government Department of Health website](#).

For further information about the COVID-19 vaccination program and the rollout for emergency services personnel, visit the COVID-19 information pages on the [Intranet](#) and [Volunteer Hub](#) that will continue to be updated regularly.

If you have any further questions, please direct them to our COVID-19 Incident Response Team through covid19@dfes.wa.gov.au.

Help protect yourself, your colleagues and your loved ones by getting vaccinated, always using good hygiene, stay at home if you are unwell, get tested if you have symptoms and check in using the SafeWA App.

**DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER**