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MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

To all staff,

DFES has published its Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, which will implement measures to ensure the Department complies with the Chief Health Officer's directions that all fire and emergency services workers must be vaccinated. Consistent with those directions, the policy makes it mandatory for all DFES employees and FES workers to be vaccinated in order to continue accessing fire and emergency services sites.

The effect of the policy does not deviate from the Chief Health Officer's mandate, but it will help staff understand the mandate in the context of their own workplace. It also contains important information for those staff rostered for shifts that start or finish on 1 December, the date by which all staff must have received at least one COVID-19 vaccination.

DFES is legally required to develop a separate policy regarding mandatory vaccinations for volunteers. This process is underway and the policy will be made available to staff and volunteers as soon as possible.

It is clear that the Government will not be rescinding its vaccine mandate for fire and emergency services workers – this is now a requirement to continue your employment with DFES. While I understand this may be distressing to some, it reflects the critical service we provide to the community. Emergency services must continue and the public have a right to expect that they will not be exposed to increased COVID-19 risks when they call for assistance. This virus is bigger than any individual – it has caused immeasurable tragedy across the globe and vaccination has proven to be our best defence.

If you have not yet uploaded your evidence of vaccination to Employee Kiosk, you should make this your top priority. There are instructions on this process here.

You can find a collection of Frequently Asked Questions regarding the vaccination mandate here.

DARREN KLEMM AFSM
COMMISSIONER