

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 23 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.

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 club-led 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 to participate.

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.

**Competition is currently not permitted, and, at this stage, the above requirements will apply until otherwise directed by the CHO.*

8. Do senior and masters athletes have to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to participate in club-led 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 to participate.

**Competition is currently not permitted, and, at this stage, the above requirements will apply until otherwise directed by the CHO.*

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

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

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

Yes. Based on the [public health advice](#), exemptions apply for anyone who has obtained certification from a medical practitioner that the person is unable, due to a medical contraindication (a condition or circumstance that suggests or indicates that a particular technique or drug should not be used), to receive a dose, or a further dose, of a COVID-19 vaccine.

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 time as 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. 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*

** including 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.

18. 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.](#)

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

Members	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
Employees	Full-time, part-time, and casual employees
Industry and community partners	LSV service members and licensees
Contractors	Anyone contracted to undertake work for or on behalf of LSV
Visitors	Anyone visiting an LSV or club facility or attending an activity in person

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

Please email: healthalerts@lsv.com.au