 <p>HARNESS RACING VICTORIA</p>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">FAQs for Participants</h2> <h2 style="text-align: center;">COVID-19 Vaccinations</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORG-PU-103</b> <b>(15 OCT 2021)</b></p>
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### What proof of vaccination do I need to show to be able to enter a track to race, or trial?

Effective 11.59pm Friday April 22, you are no longer required to provide evidence of vaccination when entering a track.

It is still a condition of entry to racetracks that all persons over the age of 18 years participating in harness racing are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 under the [Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order](#) and the HRV Participant COVID-19 Vaccination Compliance Policy and Procedure.

### What is the vaccination requirement to enter harness racing tracks?

In line with the Health Minister's [Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order](#) all licensed persons must be fully vaccinated or have a medical exemption.

The [Open Premises Orders](#) which required premise operators to check vaccination status is no longer in effect. Therefore, Clubs will not check vaccination status of participants upon entry. The onus is on the employer to ensure that their employees do not work outside their usual place of residence if they are not vaccinated.

However, HRV and Country Clubs reserve the right to ask for vaccination evidence where they suspect that a participant is not vaccinated.

More information on the vaccination requirement is available at: [Information - workers required to be vaccinated](#)

### When am I considered to be fully vaccinated?

To be considered fully vaccinated, you must have been administered with two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This includes the Moderna (Spikevax), Pfizer (Comirnaty), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccines or Nuvavaxoid (Novovax).


Under the current vaccination orders, there is no requirement to receive booster shots, but this may be considered in the future.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit [About COVID-19 vaccines](#)

### What is the requirement for my employer?

Under the [Pandemic \(Workplace\) Order](#), the Minister for Health requires that employees must be fully vaccinated and employers must:

- collect, record and hold vaccination information about workers who are, or may be, scheduled to work outside a worker's ordinary place of residence, and
- ensure unvaccinated workers do not work outside the worker's ordinary place of residence, unless an exception applies under the orders.

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### What proof of vaccination do I need to provide to my employer?

You will need to provide a [COVID-19 digital certificate](#) or an Immunisation Statement from the [Australian Immunisation Register](#).

Your employer should hold your vaccine information in accordance with their employer obligations under the Health Records Act 2001.

### Do penalties apply if these rules aren't followed?

Significant penalties apply to organisations for failing to comply with the requirements. There are also **large** penalties that apply to individuals who provide false or misleading information.

### What medical conditions could result in an exemption from being vaccinated?

There may be circumstances where a person may be defined as an excepted person due to a medical contraindication. It is recommended you discuss your medical condition with your medical practitioner to determine if you may be considered an excepted person.

More information on [exemptions is available here](#).

### What evidence do I need to provide for a medical exemption?

[Medical Exemptions Guidance](#)

### I have questions or concerns about the COVID-19 vaccines – who should I talk to?

You should talk to your medical practitioner if you have questions or concerns with regards to receiving a vaccine.

### Is this vaccination requirement legal?


Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008*, the Minister for Health has emergency powers that can be exercised where a public health emergency has been declared - which is currently the case in Victoria. These powers include the ability to issue required health orders.

### Is this vaccination requirement discriminatory towards those who choose not to get vaccinated for personal reasons?

Vaccination status is not in itself a protected attribute under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) (EO Act).

If a person's reason for not wanting the vaccine is not linked to a protected attribute under the Act, it is not deemed as discrimination.

Further information is available from the [Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission](#).

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**My faith precludes me from being vaccinated. Can I get an exception based on my religion?**

No. This is not an authorised exemption under the Orders.

**Does the vaccination requirement apply to volunteers?**

Yes, it applies to volunteers.

**Do the vaccination requirements apply if I live and race in regional Victoria?**

Yes. All of Victoria is included in the Orders, so for racing and the activities that you can't perform, or conduct from home, you must comply.

**Harness racing is my hobby, not my work. Do I need to comply?**

Yes. Anyone participating in harness racing, including being physically engaged in racing, training, or trialing activities, is included in the Orders.

**I am a fulltime trainer and I work for myself. Am I a worker, or an employer?**

You are both (i.e. self-employed). You will need to be aware of, and comply with, the Orders as both an employer and worker.

**I am a trainer and get help with my horse from friends and family. Am I supposed to check their vaccination information?**

Yes. Anyone who helps you is considered your worker, paid or unpaid, and if they don't live with you, they are working for you, away from *their* home.

The Orders require that, as their employer, you


- must collect, record and hold vaccination information for any worker coming on-site for work or working at another work premises, and
- must not permit a worker who doesn't meet the Direction requirements to work outside their home.

**Do the Orders apply to me if I am a family member, or friend of a trainer and I help with the horses at their home? I don't live with them.**

Yes. The Orders will apply to you if you are doing any harness racing related work away from your home, whether you are paid (employee) or unpaid (volunteer).

**I'm a breeder and I need to transfer horses between my own and other's properties. Do I need to be vaccinated to do this?**

Yes. Both are considered work sites for you, away from your home, in your participation in harness racing.

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### What should I do if I am training my horses at a country club or training venue?

Ensure that you are fully vaccinated.

### What happens if I fail to comply with the vaccination information requirements?

You and your employer may face criminal sanctions for non-compliance with the Orders.

You will also be at risk of penalties, with Victoria Police able to issue on-the-spot fines of up to \$1,817 to individuals and up to \$10,904 to businesses for non-compliance with the Orders.

Failure to comply with the Orders may also put you at risk of court-imposed penalties of up to \$21,808 for individuals and \$109,044 for businesses.

### How do I get vaccinated or get a booster if required?

You can book a vaccine appointment at [portal.cvms.vic.gov.au](https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au), by phoning the COVID-19 hotline on 1800 675 398, or through a GP or pharmacist.

- [GPs](#)
- [Fed Gov](#)
- [Health Direct](#)
- [Pharmacy](#)

For information about the centres where you can get vaccinated, visit [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

More information on COVID-19 vaccines and bookings is available on the Victorian Government's [COVID-19](#) website.

### Why did the wording change from Directions to Orders?

Victoria now has a Pandemic Management Framework which has replaced the State of Emergency Framework. Orders are issued by the Health Minister under the Pandemic Framework, whereas Directions were issued by the Chief Health Officer under the State of Emergency Framework.

### Do I have to disclose my vaccination status when I enter a Club to race or trial?

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