



# 2022 AUSTRALIAN TEAM COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

RESPONSIBILITY:		General Manager Team Performance & Operations	
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## 1. Background

- 1.1 In line with its duties under work health and safety legislation, Commonwealth Games Australia Limited (CGA) aims to take all reasonable measures to provide and maintain an environment that is safe and free of risks to the health and safety of the 2022 Australian Commonwealth Games Team (Team).
- 1.2 In this context, CGA has established a COVID-19 Advisory Group (C19AG) to provide guidance and advice on COVID-19 related risk mitigation strategies leading to, during and after the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games (Games).
- 1.3 The C19AG recognises that vaccination against COVID-19 by a vaccine that has been registered, approved or is recognised as a vaccine by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration as published on its website (Approved Vaccine) is a key strategy to reduce the risk of exposure to, and transmission of, COVID-19.
- 1.4 COVID-19 vaccination has been shown to be highly effective at preventing hospitalisation and death from illness, and so is considered a key tool in facilitating Team members' safe participation in the Games.
- 1.5 In determining an appropriate approach to managing the risk of COVID-19, C19AG has taken into account the following:
  - (a) the Team will have significant interaction with members of teams from other nations/territories, the general public, media representatives, officials, headquarters personnel etc.;
  - (b) appropriate physical distancing may not always be practical, both when competing and training and in the context of the provision of medical treatment and other supports;
  - (c) the highly transmissible delta and omicron variants of COVID-19 are currently extremely active in the community in Australia and worldwide;
  - (d) contracting COVID-19 poses a significant risk to health, especially for those who are not vaccinated; and
  - (e) COVID-19 vaccination helps to protect people by either preventing or reducing the symptoms of the virus and, to some extent, by reducing transmission.

## 2. Mandatory vaccination for Team members

- 2.1 In light of the above, CGA has determined that all Team members must:
  - (a) have completed a full course of an Approved Vaccine; and
  - (b) have also received any vaccine booster(s) that the individual is eligible to receive in accordance with the recommendations of Australian public health officials,  
  
(up-to-date), as a condition of their selection to the Team, continued membership of the Team and participation in the Games, unless they have been granted an exemption in accordance with the terms of this policy.

## 3. Timing

- 3.1 Subject to the exemptions set out in this policy, individuals must be up-to-date in their vaccination status when nominated, in order to be eligible to be selected as a member of the Team.
- 3.2 If an individual is not up-to-date in their vaccination status at the time of nomination, the individual should discuss their vaccination situation with CGA.

#### 4. Providing evidence of vaccination

4.1 Prospective Team members and Team members (as applicable) must provide evidence of their up-to-date vaccination status to:

- (a) their national sports organisation; and
- (b) CGA

promptly upon request.

4.2 Acceptable evidence of up-to-date vaccination status means:

- (a) if an individual received their vaccination(s) in Australia:
  - (i) a copy of a COVID-19 digital certificate; or
  - (ii) a copy of an immunisation history statement issued by the vaccination provider or the Australian Immunisation Register; or
- (b) if an individual received their vaccination(s) outside Australia:
  - (i) an Australian Traveller Declaration or COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Declaration as sighted by the Commonwealth Government of Australia upon the individual's entry into Australia;
  - (ii) a copy of a government-issued vaccination certificate that shows the individual is up-to-date in their vaccination status by an Approved Vaccine, and which includes the individual's full name, date of birth or passport number, vaccine brand name and the date upon which each dose of the vaccine was received;
  - (iii) an Australian International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate; or
  - (iv) other evidence recognised by the federal or an Australian state or territory government.

4.3 CGA maintains record-keeping and information sharing procedures with the aim of ensuring that all records are stored and handled securely – see the CGA privacy policy which is located at <https://commonwealthgames.com.au/wp-content/uploads/CGA-Privacy-Policy-Update-2021.pdf>.

#### 5. Exemptions

5.1 If a prospective Team member or a Team member (as applicable) cannot be up-to-date in their vaccination status because they have a valid medical contraindication which exempts that individual from receiving an Approved Vaccine, that individual must submit evidence of their valid medical exemption to:

- (a) their national sports organisation; and
- (b) CGA

promptly upon request.

5.2 The only evidence of a valid medical exemption that is acceptable to CGA is an Australian Immunisation Register immunisation medical exemption form.

5.3 For the avoidance of doubt, past infection with COVID-19 does not exempt an individual from compliance with the mandatory vaccination requirement set out in this policy.

5.4 CGA will consider granting exemptions to this mandatory vaccination policy on a case-by-case basis, taking into account relevant information including (but not limited to) if and how

it can safely accommodate the individual in the Team and at the Games without them being vaccinated.

6. Consequences of not being vaccinated

If an individual:

- (a) is not vaccinated because they have a valid medical contraindication and CGA determines that the risk of harm posed by COVID-19 cannot be managed acceptably without the Team member being up-to-date in their vaccination status; or
- (b) otherwise refuses to be vaccinated or to provide evidence of vaccination in accordance with this policy,

then CGA may at its absolute discretion:

- (c) decline to select that person as a member of the Team;
- (d) terminate that person's Team membership; or
- (e) place conditions on that person's participation in the Team.

7. Other vaccinations

7.1 CGA may in the future also require its Team members to be vaccinated against other infectious diseases, including (without limitation) new variants of COVID-19.

7.2 Before doing so, CGA will send a written notice to all prospective and selected Team members, advising them of the need to be vaccinated and the relevant date for compliance.

8. About this policy

CGA may review and revise this policy as:

- (a) new information regarding vaccination and testing becomes available;
- (b) government directives and public health orders are introduced or varied; and
- (c) the prevalence of COVID-19 in the sporting and/or international communities changes.

Effective date of Policy: 9 February 2022

Resources:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/im011>