

## COVID-19 UPDATE 19 – NSW GOVERNMENT ADVICE ON VACCINATION AND RAPID ANTIGEN TESTING

On Friday, 27 August 2021, the NSW government [made changes to the public health order](#) relating to authorised workers who live in an [area of concern](#) and travel outside of their local government area to attend work.

The key changes are:

- The date these workers must have received at least one (1) COVID-19 vaccination in order to travel outside their LGA to work has been **extended from 30 August to 6 September 2021**.
- Rapid antigen testing is **no longer an exemption** to vaccination.
- Authorised workers under the age of 16 years are exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated.
- A revision of the obligation on certain early education and care workers, and disability support workers whose place or residence or place of work is in an area of concern to have had at least a single dose of vaccine to only apply to a person at least 16 years of age, and to apply from 6 September 2021 (rather than 30 August 2021)

This means authorised workers who live in an area of concern and have not had a COVID-19 vaccination by 6 September 2021 will not be able to travel to work outside their LGA without a [medical contraindication form](#).

There are additional requirements for authorised workers who are entering [construction sites](#). These rules are also set out [here](#).

### What this means for businesses

By 6 September 2021, all businesses who have authorised workers who live in an [LGA of concern](#) and travel outside the LGA of concern for work will need to:

- confirm employees have received at least one (1) dose of vaccine; or
- confirm employees have been issued with a medical contraindication certificate.

There are now an additional 200,000 priority vaccination appointments available for authorised workers in the LGAs of concern and these workers have been offered priority bookings for vaccination. There has also been a targeted drive for the 16-39 age group.

- This [link](#) takes you to the site for *priority bookings for authorised workers*.
- This [link](#) takes you to the site for *priority bookings for anyone aged 16-39*.
- This [link](#) takes you to the site for *priority bookings for childcare & disability workers*.



## **NSW government advice for setting up on-site rapid antigen testing**

As noted above, [Public Health \(COVID-19 Additional Restrictions for Delta Outbreak\) Order \(No 2\) Amendment \(No 3\) Order 2021](#) removes rapid antigen testing as an alternative to vaccination for authorised workers who leave an area of concern for work.

Businesses who choose to set up rapid antigen testing on site must use Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)-approved testing kits and organise supervision of testing by a health practitioner.

More information about who can supervise rapid antigen testing can be found under frequently asked questions on the [TGA website](#). Businesses may engage a third-party provider to manage this process.

NSW Health has developed [guidelines](#) for rapid antigen testing, including what to do when a positive test occurs. Information on approved rapid antigen tests is available from the TGA [website](#).

More information about rapid antigen testing in NSW is available [here](#).

### **Permits for authorised workers entering or leaving LGAs of concern**

Authorised workers in areas of concern now need a permit if:

- they are an [authorised worker](#) from a [local government area of concern](#) and need to leave the area for work; or
- they are a worker entering a local government area of concern.

Authorised workers can apply for their permit on the [Service NSW website](#).