



OWN NSW COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

Introduction:

OWN NSW believes that each of us is responsible to act collectively to ensure a safe environment for all.

The evidence is clear that COVID-19 has most severely impacted older people, causing disproportionate illness and deaths, at rates which are higher than the rest of the population.

As OWN NSW is fully committed to the safety of Board Members, volunteers, staff, facilitators, members, and visitors, it is necessary for all participants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a medical exemption prior to entry into face-to-face activities run by the groups.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to address the health and safety concerns around COVID-19 and to keep all stakeholders who meet face to face in an OWN NSW activity safe in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Definitions:

Covid-19 Vaccine: Vaccines that are recognised as a COVID-19 vaccine by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Vaccinated: Individuals who have received 2 doses of a recognised COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days apart, and are at least 7 days post their second dose. Until such time as the booster rate take-up is over 90%, it will not be possible to define 3 vaccinations as the fully vaccinated status for the purpose of entry to OWN organised activities.

Policy:

OWN NSW has a duty of care to provide a safe environment for Board Members, volunteers, staff, facilitators, members, and visitors, and to ensure that reasonable steps have been

taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in all face-to-face activities run by the organisation.

In recognition of the fact that there are immune-compromised members of our community, and as vaccinations are the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 but also to protect individuals against the severe effects of the virus, OWN NSW requires those taking part in OWN activities must either have a medical exemption or have received at least two doses of an authorised COVID vaccine.

OWN NSW will continue to provide services such as online events and telephone assistance to those who choose to remain unvaccinated.

Responsibilities:

- Volunteers, staff, facilitators and members are to be at least double- vaccinated against COVID-19 or have been given a medical exemption
- Volunteers, staff, facilitators and members are willing to show their proof of vaccination/exemption when requested

OWN NSW Staff are responsible to:

- Check temperatures of those participating in face-to-face activities
- Check members' and visitors' proof of vaccination/ exemption
- To communicate the latest COVID-19 vaccination information with members

Authorisation:

OWN NSW Board February 2022