

Question on Notice

No. 1586

Asked on 1 December 2021

MR S ANDREW ASKED THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES (HON Y D'ATH)—

QUESTION

With reference to Queensland's Guidelines for medical exemptions from receiving a TGA authorised Covid-19 vaccine, in accordance with the guidelines published by ATAGI—

Will the Minister (a) confirm that a person may apply for a medical exemption in Queensland, on the grounds they are currently taking part in a Covid-19 vaccine trial and receipt of a TGA authorised vaccine would impact the validity of the trial and (b) detail the requirements upon which a person may apply for an exemption on this basis?

ANSWER

A person does not need to specifically apply for an exemption from the Public Health Directions on the grounds they are taking part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial where the receipt of a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved COVID-19 vaccine would impact the validity of the trial. This exception has been built into the following Public Health Directions:

- *Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status Direction* (the PHSM Direction)
- *COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for Workers in a high-risk setting Direction*
- *Hospital Entry Direction (No. 7)*
- *Residential Aged Care Direction (No. 11)*
- *Disability Accommodation Services Direction (No. 26)*
- *Workers in a healthcare setting (COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements) Direction (No. 2).*

Under the PHSM Direction, a person is required to provide a medical certificate or letter from a medical practitioner, certifying that the person is currently taking part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial and receipt of a TGA approved vaccine would impact the validity of the trial. As this exemption is temporary, the medical certificate must not have expired.

For high risk and vulnerable settings, the person is required to:

- be an active participant in a COVID-19 vaccine trial; and
- provide a medical certificate or letter from a medical practitioner, registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Queensland)*, associated with the COVID-19 vaccine trial, confirming that:
 - the worker is participating in a Phase 3 or 4 COVID-19 vaccine trial;and

- the worker has received at least one active dose of the COVID-19 vaccine being trialed.

A COVID-19 vaccine trial is a medical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine under either the Clinical Trial Notification or Clinical Trial Approval schemes regulated by the TGA.

People who meet the requirements of the exception will be treated as if they are fully vaccinated and permitted to enter and remain in business venues, vulnerable facilities and high-risk settings equivalent to fully vaccinated people.