

Question on Notice

No. 856

Asked on 18 August 2022

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

QUESTION

Will the Minister advise (a) what percentage of Queensland Health staff have received a third Covid-19 booster shot, (b) what percentage have received a fourth booster shot, (c) if the Queensland Government will be mandating boosters for Queensland Health staff and (d) if so, has a risk assessment been carried out showing the impact such a mandate would have on health staffing numbers in Queensland?

ANSWER

I have been advised by the department of the following.

- (a) In relation to what percentage of Queensland Health staff have received a third COVID-19 booster vaccination:

As of 19 August 2022, 35.86 per cent of Queensland Health staff (excluding Queensland Ambulance Service staff) have provided evidence that they have received at least one COVID-19 booster dose.

Staff are not required to provide evidence in relation to their third dose status.

- (b) In relation to what percentage have received a fourth booster shot:

ATAGI recommended a 'winter' booster dose for higher risk groups such as people aged 50 years and above, people who are severely immunocompromised, or those that have significant or complex health needs.

For most people this 'winter' booster will be the second booster (or fourth dose).

As of 19 August 2022, 2.28 per cent of Queensland Health staff (excluding Queensland Ambulance Service staff) have received at least two COVID-19 booster doses, and subsequently provided evidence of those booster doses.

Of those employees 50 years of age and over, 5.97 per cent have recorded receiving the 'winter booster'.

Staff are not required to provide evidence in relation to their fourth dose status.

- (c) In relation to whether Queensland Government will be mandating boosters for Queensland Health staff:

On 29 July 2022, the Director-General announced consultation would occur regarding the vaccine directive and requirements relating to booster doses.

- (d) In relation to whether a risk assessment has been carried out showing the impact such a mandate would have on health staffing numbers in Queensland:

A risk assessment is always undertaken as part of any process which involve decisions relating to the mandating of vaccinations for Queensland Health employees.