

Question on Notice
No. 98
Asked on 24 February 2022

Mr S Bennett asked Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Burnett Sub-Chamber of Agricultural Societies' report that of the 20 Shows planned for the first quarter of 2022, 3 have been cancelled and 9 postponed and inconsistency between requirements for unvaccinated visitors to Showgrounds and other indoor and outdoor events—

Will the Premier commit to a review of the specific requirements for Shows and Showgrounds as a matter of urgency to reassure rural communities that their Shows can proceed as planned?

ANSWER:

Queensland has had a very successful response to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, enjoying higher levels of freedoms than most jurisdictions in Australia and overseas whilst also maintaining one of the lowest morbidity and mortality rates in the world.

As Queensland's public health response has now shifted from the elimination of COVID-19 to managing ongoing transmission in the community, it is more important than ever to protect the most vulnerable and protect the capacity of the health system. For this reason, some public health measures, including vaccination requirements, continue to apply to certain settings and activities, as outlined in the *Public Health and Social Measures linked to vaccination status Direction*.

Ensuring a baseline level of protection through vaccination requirements helps to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and infection among staff, customers and visitors, reduces the need for community lockdowns, tempers the scale and severity of outbreaks, and protects the capacity of the health system.

The Queensland Government continues to adopt a flexible response to COVID-19 and tailor public health measures to protect the community from both the direct impacts of COVID-19 and from the impacts of future surges of COVID-19 on the capacity of the health system.

I can confirm that all public health directions and restrictions, including vaccination requirements in place for showgrounds and other similar venues, are subject to ongoing, regular reviews by the Chief Health Officer who considers their appropriateness in light of the changing epidemiological and public health context. Should the Chief Health Officer consider certain restrictions are no longer required in response to the current public health risk, including any public health measures applying to particular settings, they will be revoked.