

## BCH POSITION STATEMENTS

Date: 15 December 2022



# COVID-19 Vaccinations – Information and Provision

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### **BCH Role**

Ballarat Community Health (BCH) is a health and community services provider, providing front line health care services, as well as supporting public health strategies to manage the COVID 19 global health pandemic. With many staff working in a front line capacity providing health care, there is an increased risk of exposure to COVID-19 and other infections.

Vaccination is a crucial part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. BCH will continue to advocate and promote vaccination as a vital measure in keeping the community safe.

### **Key Messages**

- Vaccination contributes to providing the highest possible level of immunity across the community, inclusive of health practitioners who will be provided with a level of protection in relation to their own health if exposed to the COVID-19 virus at work or elsewhere.
- Receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine remains a mandated requirement in a number of high risk health settings, and external service providers may require attending health practitioners from BCH to be vaccinated to work in their environments. BCH will ensure that these requirements are met.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are mandatory for all healthcare workers in Victoria and BCH ensures that all staff have the full COVID-19 vaccination course as scheduled unless medically contraindicated.
- Should an employee or contractor of BCH have a conscientious objection to receiving, authorising, prescribing or administering COVID-19 vaccines then they must inform their Manager of this as soon as possible.
- The promotion of anti-vaccination statements or health advice that contradicts the available scientific evidence or seeks to undermine the National Immunisation Campaign (including through use of social media) is not supported by BCH.
- Registered health practitioners who are authorised to administer COVID-19 vaccines will fulfill all training requirements set out by the Commonwealth Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program.

- All vaccines will be administered and stored in accordance with the relevant legislation, best practice and the guidelines encompassed within the Australian Immunisation Handbook.
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Ballarat Community Health provides direct services in this area.

For more information contact:

- Joanne Gell, Client Services Executive Manager on (03) 5338 4500.