



WA Police Force Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions Exemption Guidelines

Based on the health advice from Western Australia's Chief Health Officer, due to the evolving Delta variant and risks of COVID-19, the *WA Police Force Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions* (the **Directions**) were made on 12 November 2021 and came into effect upon signing.

Under the Directions all WA Police Force workers must be vaccinated against COVID-19 in order to enter or remain at a WA Police facility unless they are an exempt person.

WA Police Force workers are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter WA Police facility as follows:

- From 1 December 2021 – **Partially vaccinated** (first dose)
- From 1 January 2022 – **Fully vaccinated** (second dose)

All WA Police Force workers and their employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility should refer to the Directions to determine the vaccination requirements for their relevant WA Police facility.

Partially vaccinated means that a person has been administered with one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

Fully vaccinated means that a person has been administered with two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

A WA Police Force worker must produce evidence that they have been vaccinated against COVID-19 when directed or required.

These Guidelines only provide a summary of the exemptions arising under the Directions at the time these Guidelines are published. The signed Directions are available at [WA Police Force Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/legislation/directions/wa-police-force-worker-restrictions-on-access-directions) and may be amended or replaced from time to time.

Who is a WA Police Force worker?

WA Police Force workers includes the following (other than an exempt person):

- A person who is a police officer appointed under the *Police Act 1892* (WA) to be a member of the Police Force of Western Australia;
- A person employed in the Police Service;
- A person who is a student and undertakes a placement, registration or internship at a WA Police facility as a formal part of their education;
- A person who provides goods or services at a WA Police facility who is employed or otherwise engaged by the owner or operator WA Police facility as set out in Column 1 Row 3 of the table in Schedule 1 of the Directions;
- A person who is a legal practitioner.

What is a WA Police facility?

WA Police facility means any premises owned, leased or operated by the WA Police Force where a police or police-related service is delivered, including vehicles, vessels and aircraft. It does not include a mission critical area.

Please refer to paragraph 26 of the Directions as to what is and what is not a WA Police facility.

What is a police or police related service?

A police or police related service means any service provided by the WA Police including:

- keeping the peace;
- preventing crime;
- detecting crime;
- enforcing the law;
- apprehending offenders; or
- emergency management.

What are the types of exemptions?

If you are a WA Police Force worker, you are an exempt person if –

- You have a **medical exemption**

Medical exemption means a medical exemption recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register and displayed on the individual's Immunisation History Statement.

Further information on medical exemptions is available on the [Australian Immunisation Register](#) website.

This information specifies that the only reasons you might be able to get an exemption from having a vaccine are if you:

- had anaphylaxis after a previous dose of a vaccine;
- had anaphylaxis after a dose of any component of a vaccine; or
- are significantly immunocompromised—for live vaccines only.

- You have a **temporary exemption**

A WA Police Force worker, or the employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility, may apply for a temporary exemption. A temporary exemption will only last for a limited time and may be subject to terms and conditions. Details about this process are set out in these Guidelines.

- You are **performing a specific duty**

This includes duties such as performing a statutory duty arising under a law of the Commonwealth, responding to an emergency, or acting under a Fair Work entry permit or a Work Health and Safety entry permit. For the full list please see paragraph 6 of the Directions available at [WA Police Force Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#).

- You are a person of the kind **set out in column 2 of the table in Schedule 1**

The people listed in Column 2 of the table in Schedule 1 of the Directions are exempt people. This includes a visitor to the WA Police facility including a person who is receiving a police or police related service, a person who is in the custody of the WA Police and a person assisting or providing information to the WA Police. Please refer to the full list of exempt people set out in Column 2 of the table at Schedule 1.

- You are any other person **declared to be an exempt person**

A person or class of persons may be declared to be exempt. An exemption may be subject to terms and conditions. Details about this process are set out in these Guidelines.

For more information about the exemptions please refer to the Directions available at [WA Police Force Worker \(Restrictions on Access\) Directions \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#).

Temporary Exemption – Paragraph 16(a)(ii)

How do I apply for a temporary exemption?

An individual WA Police Force worker may apply for a temporary exemption. The employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility may apply for a temporary exemption on behalf of their staff.

If you are a WA Police Force worker or the employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility and you wish to apply for a temporary exemption, please submit a Temporary Exemption Application Form.

As it can take time to determine an application for a temporary exemption, and you may be contacted to provide further information, please submit the Temporary Exemption Application Form well in advance of the time that an exemption is required.

You do not need to apply for a temporary exemption if you:

- have a medical exemption;
- are performing a specific duty which is exempt under the Directions;
- are a person of the kind set out in Column 2 of the table in Schedule 1; or
- you are declared to be an exempt person.

Duration of exemption

A temporary exemption will be granted for a specified period or for a specified purpose, which will be considered on a case by case basis.

Exemption may be subject to terms and conditions

A temporary exemption may be subject to terms and conditions which will be specified in the exemption.

Reasons to apply for a temporary exemption

WA Police Force worker

Examples of when a temporary exemption may be considered for a WA Police Force worker are as follows:

- if the WA Police Force worker can demonstrate they have taken every effort to access a COVID-19 vaccine registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, but have been unable to due to supply or access limitations;
- if the WA Police Force worker has been vaccinated against COVID-19 outside Australia with a vaccine that is not registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration; or
- if the WA Police Force worker is in the process of applying for a medical exemption but that process is not yet complete.
- Information and evidence to support the application for temporary exemption will need to be provided.

Employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility (class of persons)

The employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility may submit an application for a temporary exemption on behalf of staff. An example of when a temporary exemption may be considered is as follows:

- if the employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility can demonstrate that they are making every effort to ensure WA Police Force workers at the WA Police facility have been vaccinated against COVID-19 but has not yet achieved this.

Information and evidence to support the application for temporary exemption will need to be provided.

Declaration of an exempt person or class of persons – Paragraph 16(d)

A person or class of persons may be declared to be exempt. A WA Police Force worker or their employer or person in charge of a WA Police facility may apply for an exemption by submitting an Exemption Application Form.

If you are one of the above-mentioned persons and wish to apply to be declared exempt, please submit an Exemption Application Form. Information and evidence to support the application to be declared exempt would need to be provided.

As it can take time to determine an application for an exemption, and you may be contacted to provide further information, please submit the Exemption Application Form well in advance of the time that an exemption is required.

The exemption may be subject to terms and conditions which will be specified in the exemption.

Compelling circumstances must exist for a declaration under paragraph 16(d) to be made. For example, an exemption could be granted in rare circumstances where a medical exemption cannot be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register but an expert or experts approved by the Chief Health Officer have provided advice about the need for an exemption.

Approval of temporary exemption / Declaration of exemption

If the temporary exemption is approved or a person or class thereof is declared exempt, an approval/declaration (as the case may be) will be provided to the applicant.

The WA Police Force worker must:

- produce a copy of the exemption approval/declaration for inspection if directed to do so by an emergency officer or a nominated officer;
- provide a copy of the exemption approval/declaration if required to do so by their employer or person in charge of the WA Police facility services for their records; and
- keep a copy of the exemption approval/declaration available whilst remaining at a site.

If a temporary exemption is not approved

You will be notified if a temporary exemption or a declaration of an exempt person or class of persons is not approved.

If the application is not approved the WA Police Force worker who is not vaccinated in accordance with the Directions may not enter or remain at a WA Police facility.

More information

If you would like more information about the types of exemption and information and evidence that may need to be provided, please contact COVIDVaccinationExemption@health.wa.gov.au.

Further information is available at:

www.wa.gov.au

Call **13 COVID (13 268 43)** for general and quarantine related queries

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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