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Andrew.Robertson

Advice on liquor stores and bottle shops

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Premier

Liquor stores and bottle shops were captured under the Proof of Vaccine Directions. This required proof of vaccination to make any purchases, including drive-through purchases. Further to the initial advice on 18 February 2021 that this should be removed, a public health reassessment of the risk-benefit achieved supports the removal of this requirement. While there is evidence that this has assisted in encouraging people to be vaccinated, particularly in regional and remote areas, the risk of transmission in this setting is small, due to the limited interaction with staff and limited times in the store, which is more analogous to the risk from collecting take-away food. With the requirement for masks indoor across the state, this risk is now well mitigated and the restriction can be removed. The risk in other settings, such as pubs, bars and restaurants, where masks are removed to eat and drink, remains significant and proof of vaccination requirements should continue. In addition, this will improve the safety of staff and other clients from dissatisfied unvaccinated customers. After assessing the public health risk, the mask requirements and staff safety, and the potential for additional increased numbers of vaccinated people given the current high vaccination rates, the removal of this requirement is recommended.

*Thanks*

*Andy*

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