



RSLWA

**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED**

ALL SUB-BRANCHES

ADVICE ON COVID-19 PROVISIONS

The importance of compliance with the latest health advice and compliances regarding COVID-19 will impact on Sub-Branches that provide food & beverage services, irrespective if the Sub-Branch premises is a licensed venue.

As announced by the State Government yesterday:

From Monday 31 January 2022, proof of vaccination for people aged 16 years and over will be required state-wide for:

- Visitors to public and private hospitals, and residential aged care facilities;
- All hospitality and food and licensed venues,
 - including restaurants, dine-in fast food, cafes, bars, pubs, clubs, taverns;
 - excluding food and non-alcoholic beverage takeaway, roadhouses, and service stations
- Bottle shops;
- Indoor entertainment venues, including play centres, gaming and gambling, theatres, concert halls, museums, cinemas and live music venues, including the Perth Convention Centre;
- Nightclubs;
- The Crown Perth complex;
- Major stadiums;
- Gyms, fitness studios and centres;
- Amusement Parks and the Zoo; and
- Music festivals and large events with more than 500 people, unless exempt.

Our reading of the above means that any Sub-Branch that serves or provides food or drinks must ensure proof of vaccination by any person who enters the premises, irrespective of being members or non-members. Further to this, any Sub-Branch that holds a Liquor Licence must do the same, irrespective whether the bar or bars are open.

I respectfully advise that it is the responsibility of each Sub-Branch to abide by the new requirements and any questions should be directed to the Department of Health.

So to be clear, if you consider your Sub-Branch to be a “hospitality venue” then you need to comply with the new directions as of Monday 31 January 2022.

Existing conditions still apply as follows:

- Mandatory Vaccination of bar staff (including regular volunteers); and/or
- Restrictions on gatherings.

If your Sub-Branch runs a bar and/or restaurant, the Sub-Branch needs to ensure that all food and beverage staff (including regular volunteer staff) are vaccinated. If not, unvaccinated food and/or beverage staff cannot work. Stiff penalties apply for non-compliance. Current penalties for failure to comply with legal directions are punishable by imprisonment for up to 12 months or a fine of up to \$50,000 for an individual and \$250,000 for bodies corporate.

Further to the above, if your Sub-Branch premises has the capacity to provide hospitality to more than 500 patrons it is deemed a high risk venue and, as such, the Sub-Branch needs to ensure any person who enters the premises must provide Proof of Vaccination otherwise that person cannot enter or stay on the premises.

I understand that these COVID provisions and new provisions as of 31 January may not be welcomed by some. However, they are legal requirements and must be followed.

Importantly, there are Veterans in Sub-Branches and the wider community that include some of the most vulnerable and it is important to do all we can to ensure they are safe.

Attached for your information are three relevant documents, namely:

- Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations - current
- COVID-19 Restrictions Directions Order – current
- New proof of vaccination requirements – from Monday 31 January 2022.

Yours Sincerely,



John McCourt JP, MBA, FAIM, MAICD
Chief Executive Officer

14 January 2022