



Wanda SLSC COVID UPDATE – Summary of SLSS Circular 11

Key dates for October – November - Government Timing:

- The NSW Government's ease of restrictions will be triggered at 70% double dose vaccination and changes will come into play Monday 11 October 2021
- Modelling indicates that 80% vaccination will be achieved in late October.
- Requirements with respect to full vaccination will change on 1 December 2021.

Current Restrictions:

The current restrictions in place until 11 October include:

- Clubhouses closed for general activity
- Patrolling under COVID requirements
- Nippers – No nipper activity
- Sport – No carnival activity
- Training - Up to five people fully vaccinated

Vaccination:

- SLS Sydney has adopted a vaccination policy for member involvement between 70% and 80% community vaccination levels. This aligns with NSW Government Health Orders for community facilities that requires full vaccination. This policy is temporary in nature, includes exceptions and may change with health orders.
- Every Australian aged 12 years and over is eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccination, this means SRC Candidates now have access to vaccination programs and will be able to join face to face activity once they are fully vaccinated.

Clubhouse:

- Clubs will open when we reach a 70% vaccination level – 11th October
- Masks will be required indoors
- Gyms and indoor recreational/sporting facilities may open from 11th October for fully vaccinated Members under the one person per 4sqm rule
- All Members will be required to sign in via a QR code before entering the club
- Gym will be allowed to open for fully vaccinated Members
- Members will need to provide their proof of vaccination to have their access fob activated

Patrol Season:

- Patrols will return to normal on the 11th October but will be limited to 20 people in line with the new guidelines and will compose of fully vaccinated (or exempted) members.
- The overarching goal is still to minimise Member, public and gear/equipment exchanges/interactions to reduce the risk of exposure.
- As vaccination programs are now open to members under aged 12 years and over, SRC Members will be able to re-join patrols once fully vaccinated.
- Members are not compelled to Patrol and will not be penalised for not turning up for Patrols during this period.
- All Members will be required to sign in via a QR code before Patrol

Education and Skills Maintenance (Proficiencies)

- Masks will be required indoors
- All personnel involved in the training will need to be fully vaccinated during this period.
- From 11 October face to face training and skills maintenance can return between 70% and 80% vaccination rates for fully vaccinated Members in groups of up to 20
- All Skills maintenance will need to be completed before December 31st.

Junior Activity

- Nippers will return when community sport is approved. This could be as early as 31 October 2021. Advice will be provided on the structure, format and requirements when updated Health Orders are released.

Surf Sports Competition

- Sport activity will be limited to 20 people from 11 October 2021 for fully vaccinated members.
- Modified Surf Sports Carnivals are being planned at this stage for December and the New Year.

FAQ's

Why has SLS Sydney adopted a vaccination policy for member involvement

- Its primary purpose is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Members and the community as NSW moves from restricted movement to greater public autonomy. This increase in movement has been recognised as a greater risk factor to those who are unvaccinated while vaccinations rates have not reached optimal levels.

How will Clubs monitor Member Vaccination Status?

- The NSW Government is yet to release Health Orders or direction about how an individual's vaccination status is demonstrated. This will be updated once known once the compliance requirements are known. It is suspected that members will need to self-regulate check in (or face penalties) but other possible scenarios will be marshal checking or trainer, coach or management team member providing access at certain times etc

Further information – Including the Vaccination Policy

- Further information can be found on the SLSNSW COVID Information page. <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/coronavirus-covid-19-updates-resources-slsnsw-clubs>

Vaccination Requirement Policy Background

This Policy has been developed by Surf Life Saving Sydney (SLSS) and its Clubs as the organisation transitions from closed and restricted services to a return to more normal activity. Its primary purpose is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Members and the community as NSW moves from restricted movement to greater public autonomy. This increase in movement has been recognised as a greater risk factor to those who are unvaccinated while vaccinations rates have not reached optimal levels. The NSW Government has asked us to exercise extreme caution during this period.

The Policy is designed as a risk mitigation strategy as the community transitions from 70% to 80% vaccination rates. It is temporary in nature and will be amended as required. It is expected to expire on or before 1 December 2021.

The Policy will compliment NSW Government Health Orders that will require those using surf life saving clubs, gymnasiums and bar facilities being required to be fully vaccinated. It will be one risk mitigation strategy in a suite of initiatives provided to keep Members and the community safe.

Patrolling Members have been eligible for priority vaccine access 1B as Emergency Services throughout the year.

Surf Life Saving Sydney's core value is that of safety and Branch & Club Management teams have a primary responsibility to ensure the physical and mental health & safety of all our volunteers and paid staff as reasonably practicable within our operating environment.

Further, our Members have a shared duty of care under WH&S legislation to ensure the health and safety of themselves and others under the suite of services we provide, so far is reasonably practicable. Our Members must follow the reasonable WH&S instructions given by their Club, SLSS, SLSNSW and SLSA.

For the safety of Members and the wider community, SLSS strongly encourages all Members aged 12 years of age or older who can be safely vaccinated, to do so at the earliest opportunity.

During this transition period all Patrolling Members, Trainers, Assessors, Facilitators, Support Operations Members, Age Managers, Water Safety and those interacting with groups and teams such as education squads, who are eligible to be safely vaccinated must be doubly vaccinated, unless they are exempt on medical or other grounds.

Further, to comply with the NSW Government Public Health Orders those Members using clubhouse facilities, gymnasiums and attending hospitality services, or the club bar, when open, will need to be fully vaccinated.

SLSS and its clubs have the power to give a direction to volunteers and employees to be vaccinated (and provide proof of vaccination) against COVID-19 if the direction is:

- Lawful
- Reasonable
- Within the scope or subject matter of the volunteer's/employee's duties
- Provided following a risk assessment

Any such direction must not be prohibited under legislation, industrial instruments, or contracts of employment. A direction must not discriminate against a volunteer or an employee, either directly or indirectly, on any basis, including on the basis of for example:

- Disability (eg a person with a medical contraindication to receiving a vaccine as certified by a treating medical practitioner)
- Sex (eg a volunteer or employee who is pregnant and not able to be vaccinated (if that is the case))
- Race or Age (eg if vaccinations were only mandated for at risk employees as defined by their race or age).

Any person who believes they should be exempt from the requirement to be doubly vaccinated on medical or other grounds are encouraged to contact their Club President. In any such exceptional cases (including with employees), the Club may consider if any reasonable adjustments may be made to an individual's duties (eg: for instance only conducting surveillance outdoors with suitable PPE and other measures). Clubs are encouraged to liaise with SLSS for further advice in such situations.

Further information can be found on the SLSNSW COVID Information page.

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