



20 April 2021

The Hon. Martin Foley
Minister for Health, Minister for Ambulance Services and Minister for the Co-ordination of
Health and Human Services COVID-19
Level 22/50 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3001

By Email Only: minister.health@dhhs.vic.gov.au

Dear Health Minister

AMBULANCE WORKERS VACCINATION LEAVE

We write to you to request a decision regarding the availability of paid pandemic leave for Ambulance workers resulting from COVID-19 vaccinations. The experience of many recipients is that they are unable to attend work for 24 to 48 hours post receipt of the vaccination. At this point, the direction from Ambulance Victoria to our members is that they use their personal leave to facilitate this.

The current guidance is that Special Pandemic Leave will only be available to those who, post vaccination, experience symptoms which necessitate a COVID-19 test and subsequent isolation. Our members have expressed that this places an unreasonable burden on them when in all likelihood vaccinations will be a requirement for frontline workers.

Since February 2021, this issue has been raised by the health sector unions in numerous meetings and taskforces that government representatives have facilitated. The response has invariably been that the issue of pandemic leave is being considered by “central government” and that a decision is imminent.

The need for the Victorians, in particular health workers, to receive the vaccination is well documented as a measure to return the state to a post-COVID normal. As such we are encouraging our members to receive the vaccination at their earliest opportunity.

The uncertainty surrounding this pandemic leave entitlements is seen by some members as a disincentive to receive the vaccination. Considering the community uncertainty, Ambulance Employees Australia – Victoria (**AEAV**) believes it is necessary to support frontline workers to assist in building broader confidence in the vaccinations. @aeavicunior

We respectfully request a decision on this issue by close of business **Tuesday 4 May 2021**.

Should you have any questions in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0419 317 289.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Adie', written in a cursive style.

Brett Adie
Secretary
Ambulance Employees Australia Victoria (AEAV)