

Mr Graydon Welsh
Industrial Officer
Public Service Association of NSW

Dear Mr Welsh

I refer to your letter dated 23 September 2021 regarding the Helpline and the Public Health Order (PHO) currently in force for authorised workers in Local Government Areas (LGA) of concern.

As you are aware, the PHO requires authorised workers in LGAs of concern to have received one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by 19 September 2021 or provide a medical contraindication certificate. I note your concerns regarding the Department's application of the current PHO to employees of the Helpline who are currently working from home.

Community Services employees, including employees of the Helpline, are designated as authorised workers. In light of the current high risk of COVID-19 transmission in the community and the large number of authorised workers in Community Services isolating due to contracting COVID-19 or being exposed to COVID-19, employees in the Helpline who live in areas of concern may be required to work at a different location at any time, including visiting the home of a client. This would require employees to leave an LGA of concern and to comply with the PHO.

I note that the majority of employees in the Helpline that live in LGA's of concern have complied with the PHO. The Department will not withdraw the letters sent to the small number of employees who are yet to comply with the PHO for the reasons set out above. The Department expects all employees to comply with the PHO and employees have been advised that non-compliance may result in further action being taken.

If you would like further information, please contact Allisar Katrib on email Allisar.Katrib@facs.nsw.gov.au or 0439 958 131 should you wish to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Pam Brunner
Executive Director
CS Statewide Services

24 September 2021