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# MEMORANDUM

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**To:** Health Service Chief Executives

**From:** Dr Jeannette Young PSM  
Chief Health Officer  
and Deputy Director-General

**Contact No:** 3708 5190

**Email:** [CHO-COVID@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:CHO-COVID@health.qld.gov.au)

**Subject:** **Mandatory vaccination of students on clinical placements in restricted vulnerable facilities**

**File Ref:** C-ECTF-21/10277

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I write regarding the vaccination requirements for students undertaking clinical placements in Queensland's restricted vulnerable facilities.

As you may be aware, in New South Wales an unvaccinated student nurse, who was positive for COVID-19, worked at both the Fairfield and Royal North Shore hospitals while infectious. This is obviously a troubling development and highlights why we must take the necessary mitigations to prevent transmission into our vulnerable facilities.

In Queensland, our approach has always been to restrict access to vulnerable facilities when there is evidence of community transmission. This step has resulted in us having no instances of community transmission of COVID-19 within these facilities.

With Delta now becoming the prevalent strain of COVID-19 globally, and evidence of community transmission in Queensland, we must take further measures to protect our most vulnerable in our community.

From 8:00pm on Wednesday, 7 July 2020, any students who are on a clinical placement in connection with an enrolled course of study **must** be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before they may be permitted to enter a restricted vulnerable facility (hospital, residential aged care, disability accommodation services, or correctional centre).

Being fully vaccinated means having both doses of either Pfizer or AstraZeneca. A student should not be taken to be vaccinated if they have only had one dose and are awaiting the second dose. Also, students who cannot be vaccinated due to a contraindication will not be permitted to enter the vulnerable facility while it is restricted.

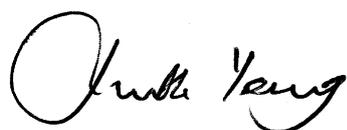
**Any student on a clinical placement who is not fully vaccinated as at 8:00pm on 7 July 2021 will not be permitted to enter a restricted vulnerable facility for the purposes of the placement.**

I confirm that students undertaking clinical placements have been eligible to receive a vaccination as part of Phase 1b. Formal advice was sent out to all universities on 17 May 2021 regarding this eligibility. As some six weeks have now passed since this communication, it is my expectation that students on clinical placements should have availed themselves of the opportunity to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

I appreciate that this change in access to restricted vulnerable facilities for students on clinical placements may initially cause disruption. However, the measure only applies while a facility is restricted. Currently, restrictions are expected to be in place for the 13 Queensland Local Government Areas until 6:00pm on 16 July 2021, pending the COVID-19 situation across the State. However, please be aware that should it be necessary to impose restrictions in future, this may happen at short notice and vaccination requirements for students on clinical placement would be reinstated.

The relevant Public Health Directions will be updated to reflect the vaccination requirement for students on clinical placements in restricted vulnerable facilities. Please continue to access these at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers>.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation in keep the most vulnerable members of our community safe, while also enabling the continuation of important placements for our future clinical workforce.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeannette Young". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Jeannette Young PSM  
**Chief Health Officer**  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**Queensland Health**  
5 July 2021