



Victoria Government Gazette

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Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER UNDER SECTION 22D (PHEO #5)

I, Kym Peake, Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services, pursuant to section 22D of the **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981** (the Act), make this public health emergency order (Order) in the belief that it is necessary to do so in order to respond to the public health emergency which is the spread of the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) in Victoria and the consequent demand on the existing health workforce of influenza vaccine immunisers otherwise dealing with prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

The purpose of the Order is to authorise registered paramedics employed by Ambulance Victoria who have successfully completed a program of study approved by the Chief Health Officer to administer the 2020 influenza vaccine to Ambulance Victoria operational staff members. This will allow for earlier protection against influenza infection during the COVID-19 response.

By this Order, I authorise the paramedics registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in the paramedic profession (other than as a student) who are employed or otherwise engaged by Ambulance Victoria (registered AV paramedics), to possess and administer the Schedule 4 poisons being the 2020 Influenza vaccine presentations and compositions (the influenza vaccine), if :-

- (a) the registered AV paramedic has completed an immuniser program of study approved by the Chief Health Officer;
- (b) the registered AV paramedic is administering the influenza vaccine to operational staff members of Ambulance Victoria, who are aged between 18 and 64 years and who do not have symptoms consistent with COVID-19;
- (c) the registered AV paramedic prepares and administers the influenza vaccine in accordance with the Ambulance Victoria 2020 Influenza Vaccination Implementation Plan and associated clinical guidelines;
- (d) the influenza vaccine is obtained by Ambulance Victoria under its health service permit;
- (e) the administration of the influenza vaccine takes place at hospital sites as agreed with local hospital management, Ambulance Victoria branch stations and Ambulance Victoria business centres.

This Order comes into force 21 April 2020 and continues in force until midnight 31 August 2020 unless earlier revoked.

Dated 20 April 2020

KYM PEAKE
Secretary to the Department of Health and Human Services

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