



Victoria Government Gazette

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Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDER UNDER SECTION 22D

Authorisation — COVID-19 VACCINE (Department of Defence)

I, Jacinda de Witts, Acting Secretary to the Department of Health, pursuant to section 22D of the **Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981**, make this Public Health Emergency Order (**Order**) in the belief that it is necessary to do so to prevent or respond to, a serious risk to public health posed to the State of Victoria by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (**SARS-CoV-2**).

The purpose of this Order is to address the public health emergency posed by the ongoing global SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, which is currently affecting the State of Victoria.

In furtherance of that purpose, this Order is intended to facilitate the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) VACCINE program, by authorising the **Department of Defence** to obtain, possess or supply:

- (a) **COVID-19 VACCINE** which is a Schedule 4 poison; and
- (b) **relevant Schedule 3 poisons**,

in accordance with the conditions outlined in this Order.

All **authorised persons**, irrespective of their status under the **Act** and the **Regulations**, are to adhere to the conditions of this Order.

Authorisation

By this Order, I authorise the Department of Defence, to obtain, possess or supply, any COVID-19 VACCINE and any relevant Schedule 3 poisons in accordance with the Act, the Regulations and any other applicable Victorian legislation, subject to the Department of Defence complying with the requirements of the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Commonwealth Aged Care Implementation Plan* and the *COVID-19 Vaccination Program Disability Sector Implementation Plan*, manufacturers' directions and Victorian and Commonwealth requirements for the:

- i. safe and secure storage, transport and custody of the medicines;
- ii. retention of records;
- iii. storage of temperature-sensitive medicines and cold chain management;
- iv. disposal of unused, unwanted, or expired medicines; and
- v. appropriate preparation and administration of the COVID-19 VACCINE by authorised persons.

The authorisation of the Department of Defence, to obtain, possess or supply any COVID-19 VACCINE and any relevant Schedule 3 poisons by this Order, is also subject to the Department of Defence complying with the requirement to:

- i. implement a quality and safety framework in accordance with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards;
- ii. implement an operational clinical governance framework in accordance with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care's National Model Clinical Governance Framework; and
- iii. ensure reporting of medically attended adverse events as per recommendations issued by the TGA and in line with the Victorian Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination in the Community reporting requirements.

As part of this Order, the Department of Defence must comply with any reasonable direction given by the Department of Health for the purposes of compliance with the conditions of this Order.

SPECIAL

Definitions

Act means the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981 (Vic.)*;

Department of Defence means Department of Defence ABN 68 706 814 312;

Authorised persons means persons authorised under the **Act, Regulations**, Secretary Approval: Nurse Immuniser — COVID-19 VACCINE, Secretary Approval: Pharmacist Immuniser — COVID-19 VACCINE or Public Health Emergency Order — Authorisation for preparation and administration — COVID-19 VACCINE, Public Health Emergency Order — Authorisation for administration — COVID-19 VACCINE (students);

COVID-19 VACCINE means any SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) VACCINE approved by the **TGA**;

Regulations means the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2017 (Vic.)*;

Relevant Schedule 3 poisons means any Schedule 3 poisons necessary for the treatment of anaphylactic reactions to the COVID-19 VACCINE;

TGA means the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Australia.

This order comes into force on the date of publication in the Government Gazette and continues in force for a period of six months, unless revoked earlier.

Dated: 12 March 2021

JACINDA DE WITTS
Acting Secretary to the Department of Health

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