# New South Wales scraps mandatory Covid-19 vaccine requirement for health workers



Mandates requiring health workers in New South Wales to receive two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine will be scrapped this week. Initially implemented in August 2021, the mandate led to the resignation or dismissal of 995 staff members within six months. As of Thursday, the requirement will be lifted for both existing personnel and new recruits.

Former paramedic John Larter, who had previously challenged the mandate in court, received confirmation of the change. He argued that the mandatory vaccination policy was a misuse of power and called for the reinstatement and compensation of affected workers.

New South Wales Health still recommends vaccinations for all workers in line with broader community advice. Chief Health Officer Dr. Kerry Chant highlighted that while most people have developed protection from vaccination or prior infection, Covid-19 remains a significant public health issue. She emphasized that vaccinations continue to offer strong protection against severe illness, especially for high-risk groups.

Studies suggest that Covid-19 vaccines have prevented thousands of deaths in New South Wales, particularly during the Omicron wave. Data from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation advises varying vaccination schedules based on age and health status to maintain immunity.