

HIGHLIGHT: Aquatic Industry & COVID-19 Vaccinations

How the aquatic industry and swim schools should manage COVID-19 vaccinations was a key topic of a webinar hosted by the Royal Life Saving Society – Australia (RLSSA) 1 September 2021. The webinar attracted 550 registrations from aquatic facility owners, operators and staff with more than 350 participating live and the remainder listening to the event recording.

An anonymous poll of the 350 aquatic facility owners and operators conducted during the webinar strongly confirmed that the aquatic industry are highly vaccinated and primed to continue to play a vital community health, recreation and safety role as part of national COVID reopening plans.



Vaccination status of aquatic industry workforce

The poll found the following views across the National Aquatic Industry:



90%

of aquatic facility owners, operators and staff are either **fully vaccinated or in the process** of becoming fully vaccinated.



74%

of aquatic facility owners, operators and **staff expect their colleagues to be vaccinated.**



62%

of aquatic facility owners, operators and staff **believe governments, not businesses, should mandate vaccines** for staff.



84%

of aquatic facility owners, operators and staff **expect their customers to be vaccinated**; however, **45% are worried about the effect of them placing additional barriers on customers coming back to swimming and water safety.**

55%

believe it should be **mandatory for aquatic facility and swim school patrons** to be vaccinated.

74%

of aquatic facility owners, operators and staff **believe governments, not businesses should mandate vaccines** for patrons.



The vaccination rate amongst aquatic facility staff is outpacing the wider community vaccination rates and reflects industry's eagerness and readiness to play its role leading into spring. A fully vaccinated aquatic workforce is assumed to be critical to future customer confidence and public health guidelines.



The poll results also interestingly reflect a view **that Government should provide clarity in the form of mandating vaccinations for employees** in consumer facing, health and education sector roles.



This likely reflects industry understandings of government plans for living with covid stages, with **forty-five per cent of industry polled expressing concern about placing barriers to participation.** This likely indicates governments should provide further clarity on mandating vaccines for patrons, including the implications for children.

The webinar coincides with the impending release of additional COVID-19 Guidelines in the Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO). The GSPO are nationally agreed industry standards endorsed by the National Aquatic Industry Committee (NAIC) on behalf of the National Aquatic Industry.

More information is available here:

Guidelines for Safe Pool Operations (GSPO): <https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/Aquatic-Risk-and-Guidelines/guidelines/GSPO>

National Aquatic Industry Committee (NAIC): <https://www.royallifesaving.com.au/Aquatic-Risk-and-Guidelines/aquatic-industry/national-aquatic-industry-committee>