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Minutes of the COVID 19 CPV Industry Update Meeting

Date: 01 April 2020

Time: 02:00pm – 02:50pm

Location: Skype Video Conference

Attendees

Al Martin (CPVV), Aaron De Rozario (CPVV), Jonathan Anderson (CPVV), Poonam Sharma (CPVV), Siena Rossi (CPVV), Brendan Healy (CPVV), Ali Warsame, Brendan O'Sullivan, Greg Hardeman, Andre Baruch, Catherine McKenzie, Colin Wells, Guy Ragen, Jenn Ashton, John Lobwein, Maria Silos, Peter Valentine, Rajesh, Spencer Gange, Steve Armstrong, Toni Peters, Vijay.

Discussion

- Al Martin (AM) welcomed and displayed presentation for discussion and provided downloadable attachment for attendees.
- Aaron De Rozario (ADR) joined the meeting to provide an update and answer questions.
- AM made the following comments:

Note: all comments made are true and correct as at this point in time.

- AM reiterated that DHHS is still the primary source for information/contact on COVID 19 advice.
- CPVV's informational channels (eg. social media and FAQ's) are updated constantly as new information is provided. Health departments are updating every 6 hours on average.
- The Australian Government has launched an official coronavirus app which is available for download on android and apple; also referred to the Government's WhatsApp platform.
- Key items added to the CPVV website on business support information surrounding the financial and economic support packages that have been released by state and federal government. Across industry there are individuals that fall in between these packages, CPVV is passing this information through to DoT and the broader government to ensure they understand the situation.
- Confirmed Public Transport and CPV services are still considered essential services in line with Stage 3 restrictions and are exempt from restrictions on passenger numbers. Drivers need to do their own risk assessment when accepting rides and BSP's are to encourage best practice and regular cleaning.
- New arrangement for quarantined international travellers means no international pickups for CPV's; transfer from airport is done by SkyBus.
- CPVV have been identifying opportunities for BSP's and connecting them with appropriate departments to see if any arrangements can be made.
- CPVV will be conducting surveys over the next 6 weeks with selected BSP's to collect trip data for safety and to get a clear picture of what is happening within the industry.
- Advised CPVV is not involved in BSP fee enquires and noted BSPs are working with their affiliate owners and drivers to ease the financial burden.
- Provided an update on the work of the Cross-Industry Taskforce to develop contingencies for public transport, including CPVs.

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- Advised new process of prohibition notices; they will continue to be issued to drivers in the community and DHHS is managing those returning from overseas.
- Following recent BSP survey, DoT offering buy back arrangement for cleaning supplies. CPVV will issue information for how BSP's can tap into this if needed.
- ADR emphasised that CPVV are looking at available contingency options that CPVV can provide to Vic Government in response to COVID 19.
- ADR advised that CPVV will continue to engage with industry and will be seeking more information and appreciated the level of cooperation.

Questions from industry:

1. BSP asked could the FAQs be date stamped for example, to ensure industry has the latest updates etc?
 - CPVV reply - CPVV Team to implement version control and time stamp.
 2. BSP sought clarity on the 2-person rule announced in stage 3 restrictions.
 - CPVV reply - AM confirmed CPV are exempt from those numbers, encouraged best practice and advised drivers may still apply a self- assessment, and if concerned for their health /safety, may refuse the fare.
 3. BSP commented that it decided to remove their taxi from service over concerns for drivers and passengers and also thanked AM and CPVV for its extensive communications effort to inform and assist industry.
 - CPVV reply - Acknowledged the difficult times at present for industry, referred to general assistance on CPVV website and thanked the BSP for her feedback
 4. BSP presented a situation where if an outbreak occurred, would CPVV assist in transportation efforts?
 - CPVV reply – Acknowledged that a whole range of scenarios that could potentially play out, but we will ensure any transport solution is safe and that BSPs are provided with the correct protective equipment.
 5. BSP asked what should a driver do if a passenger advises they have the virus?
 - CPVV reply – Refer to FAQs. Drivers must feel safe when working and if they don't and have major concerns, they can refuse the fare. Drivers can decrease risk by asking a passenger to sit in the backseat or ask passenger to wear face masks, etc.
 6. BSP asked what would change the current rules in respect of passengers being carried in CPVs?
 - CPVV reply – All current measures are under constant assessment but could not advise on what specifically could trigger a change at this time.
 7. BSP asked if the same rules apply for WAV driver concerns if a passenger is suspected of having the virus.
 - CPVV reply – Clarified that the same rules apply but drivers must clearly articulate why the fare is being refused and should assist the passenger in obtaining alternative transport.
 8. BSP requested further information on cleaning product buy back scheme.
 - CPVV reply – Information will be provided to BSPs within the next 24 hours.
- Any further queries or feedback to be directed to Safety Mailbox.
 - Meeting closed.