

MINUTES

Minutes of the COVID 19 CPVV Industry Update Meeting

Date: 9 December 2020

Time: 2:00pm – 2:40pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Video Conference

Attendees

Al Martin (AM) (CPVV), Aaron de Rozario (CPVV), Siena Rossi (CPVV), Ian Matthews (IM) (CPVV), Michelle Thomas (CPVV), Hannah Norris (CPVV), Val McFarlane (CPVV), Greg Kazuro (CPVV), Hazel Fetherston (DHHS), Laura McDonough (DoT), Lisa Faldon (DoT), Alice Nguyen, Anita Jensen, Andre Baruch, Catherine McKenzie, Colin Wells, Crown Cabs, Darryl Marks, Double Black Alpine, John Lobwein, Maria Silos, Paulina, Ray Kelsey, Toni Peters, Victoria Draudins.

Discussion

- Al Martin (AM) welcomed all attendees and displayed presentation for discussion.
- AM made the following comments:

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

- Advised that all sources and references for information/contact on COVID 19 advice remain the same.
- Noted the Government's roadmap timeline overview; both Metropolitan and Regional Melbourne are in the final step with minimal changes to the operation of CPVs including cleaning and hygiene and record keeping processes to ensure the provision of safe and clean services.

Ports of Entry Surveillance Testing (Air and Sea)

- Advised DHHS are likely to introduce the requirement for surveillance testing on ports of entry at 11:59 PM Sunday 13 December 2020; noting this may be accelerated as international flights have resumed. CPVV will provide updates as soon as further information is received.
- Advised commercial passenger vehicles providing services to international arrivals (passengers and crew) for both air and sea ports will be categorised as moderate risk ground staff (Australia based).
- Moderate risk ground staff (Australia based) are defined as workers who have occasional or indirect contact or interactions with passengers or crew and/or the environment which passengers or crew pass through or staff who may handle potentially contaminated materials. It is important to note this definition is also capturing other industries.
- Advised the majority of international arrivals will be going into the hotel quarantine program in which there are separate arrangements for those passengers that does not include commercial passenger vehicles, however there are groups of people that will be exempt that may be using commercial passenger vehicles (taxi, rideshare or hire car).
- Advised ports of entry for air include Melbourne and Avalon airport.

- Advised testing requirement for commercial passenger vehicles providing services to exempt arrivals at air ports of entry will be 100% of scope workforce tested once per week or in line with shift cycles, whichever is less.
- Advised ports of entry for sea include Port of Melbourne, Geelong Port, Port of Hastings and Port of Portland.
- Advised testing requirement for commercial passenger vehicles providing services to exempt arrivals at sea ports of entry will be 100% of scope workforce tested once per week.
- Advised DHHS intend to use the traditional tests (swab of mouth and nose) and potentially a less invasive saliva test dependant on availability of test kits.
- Acknowledged CPVV is only communicating the requirements for surveillance testing at ports of entry at today's briefing. CPVV will communicate the operational arrangements with industry once this information is available.
- Advised DJPR, DHHS and CPVV are in discussions with organisations (airlines, etc) to ensure they have appropriate arrangements in place with their service providers, including CPV drivers, to ensure their services are meeting DHHS requirements and community expectations. This may result in these organisations contacting BSPs/drivers/vehicle owners to ensure drivers are getting tested in accordance with the DHHS requirements. These organisations may elect to use only CPV service providers that are compliant with the DHHS testing requirements.

Questions from industry:

1. Attendee asked who will be regulating and controlling driver testing.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised at this time DHHS will lead monitoring and enforcement under the health legislation. As the safety regulator CPVV has the power to suspend driver accreditations or registrations if a driver or vehicle owner is operating in a way that presents a risk to the community. CPVV will provide further information once available.
2. Attendee asked if CPVV is able to provide the categorised groups of those who will be exempt from hotel quarantine and will likely be transported in CPVs.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised CPVV is unable to provide the individual categories of international travellers that may have an exemption from quarantine. CPVV will provide details on approved pick-up locations when this information is available.
3. Attendee asked for further clarity on testing and testing sites.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised CPVV understands that there will be multiple testing stations located on site. CPVV and DHHS will provide further information when it becomes available.
4. Attendee asked if there will be separate pick up points at the port of entries to distinguish between domestic and international arrivals.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised CPVV is discussing the logistics with DHHS and other key stakeholders to ensure there is minimal impact on services being provided to domestic travellers. CPVV will communicate this information as soon as it becomes available.

MINUTES

5. Attendee asked how many weeks is testing required if an international or international related pick up occurs.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised the testing must occur within a week of the pickup occurring eg. if you pickup a passenger on a Sunday, you have until midnight that coming Saturday to get tested. Advised that testing will occur on a week by week basis noting that drivers do not have to get tested for the weeks they did not work or if they did not port of entry pickups that week. Noted the testing will continue until the direction from DHHS is withdrawn or altered.
6. Attendee asked if a driver does multiple port of entry trips in the one week, how often should they get tested.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised the testing is based on a calendar week so drivers will only need to be tested once a week even if they provide multiple trips during a calendar week.
7. Attendee asked if drivers must isolate whilst they wait for their test results.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised the testing is asymptomatic which means there is no need to isolate whilst waiting for results – drivers are able to continue working. Noted that if a driver is showing symptoms or is unwell, they must cease operating.
8. Attendee stated that one of the challenges we may face is in relation to the information provided on weekly testing eg. getting tested before the passenger is picked up is seen as counter intuitive.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised strict controls are in place with international arrivals and DHHS have designed the testing program proportionate to the risk by also taking into consideration assumptions.
9. Attendee asked how many weeks will the testing be in place for.
 - CPVV reply – AM advised testing will continue until the direction from DHHS is withdrawn or altered noting that we expect there will be some sort of testing program in place whilst we're getting international arrivals and whilst COVID-19 remains a significant issue globally.

Other Updates and Activities

- Advised DHHS is still considering surveillance testing for non-port of entry. Should the requirement come into place it is anticipated drivers would need to be tested for COVID-19 once every 8 weeks. CPVV will support this public health direction if it comes into effect and will provide further updates/information to industry when available.
- Discussed face masks noting they are still required in CPVs. More information can be found via the below link:
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/face-masks-vic-covid-19>
- Advised as soon as CPVV understands how surveillance testing will be operationalised it will be communicated via the usual channels.

MINUTES

- Any further queries or feedback to be directed to Safety Mailbox safety@cpv.vic.gov.au.
- Advised the next COVID-19 CPVV Industry Update is scheduled for 16 December 2020 as further changes are expected.
- AM advised if there are any significant changes they will be communicated via email, social media or text message.
- Feedback on the industry brief or suggestions on how to improve the industry brief are welcome at any time.
- Meeting closed.