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Minutes of the COVID 19 CPVV Industry Update Meeting

Date: 23 December 2020

Time: 2:00pm – 2:45pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Video Conference

Attendees

Al Martin (AM) (CPVV), Catherine Fagan (CF) (DHHS), Siena Rossi (CPVV), Ian Matthews (IM), (CPVV), Michelle Thomas (CPVV), Val McFarlane (CPVV), Greg Kazuro (CPVV), Hannah Norris (CPVV), Kara Gilbert (DHHS), Rachael Wightman (CPVV), Alice Nguyen, Andre Baruch, Colin Wells, John Lobwein, Peter Valentine, Olivia (Sheba), Paulina, Ray Kelsey, Toni Peters.

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 COVIDSafe Summer 'how we work in Victoria' overview; noting there still remains 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 & Surveillance Testing

- Introduced guest speaker Catherine Fagan (CF), director of the COVID-19 response for the East region for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), which incorporates commercial passenger vehicles.
- CF advised the surveillance testing list was published yesterday which outlines requirements for COVID-19 testing for different workforces including CPVs. The list can be found via the below link:
<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/surveillance-testing-industry-list-covid-19>
Advised the two categories for CPVs for the purposes of testing are:
 - Any CPV worker that transports international arriving crew or passengers from a port of entry (airport or marine port) must be tested once per week or in shift cycles, whichever is less,
 - All other workers; noting it is not mandatory to be tested but the Chief Health Officer (CHO) has recommended surveillance testing for the industry in which drivers are encouraged to be tested every 8 weeks.
- Drivers who fall into either category will have access to free (no Medicare card required) fixed testing sites across Victoria with the ability to choose a location that is convenient to them; advised a fact sheet will be developed with further details.
- CF advised all port of entry arrivals will be controlled by COVID-19 Quarantine Victoria (CQV).

Questions from industry:

1. Attendee asked for further clarity on testing frequency.
 - DHHS reply – CF advised once a driver has transported international arriving crew or passengers from a port of entry they have a week (7 days) from the day they did the trip to get tested. CF advised that drivers should be tested for a minimum of two cycles e.g. if a driver picks up a passenger on a Monday they will have the next seven days to go and get tested, the driver will then need to get tested again the following week (two cycles). If the driver doesn't pick up anyone else in that two weeks period the cycle ends and the driver doesn't need to get tested again. However, drivers who pick up international arrivals regularly will need to keep getting tested once per week until the direction ceases.

2. Attendee asked how will drivers be able to identify international arriving crew or passengers at ports of entry and who will be in charge of non-compliance of the mandatory testing.
 - DHHS reply – CF advised that it would be sensible for drivers to confirm with passengers they are picking up from ports of entry if they are an international arrival or not to ensure risk mitigation and that adequate records can be kept from an audit perspective. CF advised DHHS and other government agencies will ensure controls are in place for compliance and is engaging other government agencies including the Australian Border Force to ensure controls at airports for pick up points are being adhered to.

 - CPVV reply - AM further added that surveillance testing of the CPV industry (testing of drivers every 8 weeks) is strongly recommended by the CHO to mitigate any risk of community transmission. AM also reiterated that if drivers are unwell or symptomatic, they should cease driving, get tested and isolate.

Please see further information below: **24 December 2020 – Point of Clarification**

3. Attendee stated that the introduction of fines may ensure drivers are following government direction for ports of entry as non-compliance in the industry may rise due to economic deficit for an extended period of time. Attendee also asked for clarity on the quarantine procedure for Melbourne based crew.
 - DHHS reply – CF noted attendee's feedback and confirmed Melbourne based crew are able to quarantine at home. CF also confirmed that all Melbourne based crew are under a quarantine regime that is monitored by CQV and DHHS will continue to engage with airlines to confirm travel arrangements.

 - CPVV reply - AM advised that it is believed the number of exempt international arrivals using CPVs is relatively low at this stage and reiterated the strict controls that DHHS have in place are to protect the industry as we return to COVID normal.

4. Attendee asked to confirm if drivers have to isolate while they wait for results of their asymptomatic surveillance testing. Attendee also asked for clarity on different testing requirements from other states and situations.

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- DHHS reply – CF advised drivers will not need to isolate as long as they're asymptomatic however if they develop symptoms they will need to cease working and isolate whilst they wait for their test results. CF advised testing requirements differ depending on the regime in place eg. testing that is currently occurring when crossing the border from Sydney.
- AM thanked CF for taking the time to join the industry brief this afternoon.
- CF encouraged further questions or feedback. Further queries or feedback to be directed to Safety Mailbox safety@cpv.vic.gov.au.

Safety Compliance and Enforcement

- IM provided update on CPVV's safety compliance and enforcement activities noting:
 - CPVV has increased field activity considerably over the last couple of weeks and will continue this into the new year. Advised this has been generally focused on COVID-19 enforcement however other issues will continue to be incorporated.
 - Advised that data shows drivers have a fairly good understanding of the cleaning requirements however CPVV have addressed minor matters surrounding correct sanitization and hygiene products.
 - Advised majority of cleaning registers provided to CPVV have been well adopted. Reminded BSPs that cleaning registers need to be recorded for 12 months are part of the cleaning requirements and to continue to ensure there is a process in place for the driver to be able to record clearly.
 - Advised vehicle inspections are being undertaken with CPVV issues defect notices where appropriate.
 - Touting - CPVV will continue to have presence at the airport and will engage with drivers where appropriate.
 - CPVV has prepared a forward plan of activity as we approach Victoria's major event season.

COVIDSafe Plan Template

- IM discussed the COVIDSafe Plan template that CPVV has provided that includes the questions that organisations need to consider as part of the hazards and risks and also provides control measures that can be put in place.
Can be found via the below link:
<https://cpv.vic.gov.au/drivers/coronavirus-covid-19#COVIDSafe-sample-plan>
- IM asked BSPs to measure the template against existing plans to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose.

Questions from industry:

5. Attendee asked if the vehicle inspections showed drivers complying with masks.
 - CPVV reply – IM advised there have been a small number of complaints however CPVV's authorised officers are requesting and reminding drivers to wear their masks correctly.

6. Attendee provided feedback on the length of the COVIDSafe Plan template.
 - CPVV reply – IM advised CPVV is considering whether or not another plan is released that is tailored for small to medium organisations. IM noted that the plan should still be considered in terms of control measures and clear guidance.

7. Attendee provided feedback on the general wearing of masks across the state and noted that there may be confusion as requirements change depending on the situation.
 - CPVV reply – IM advised CPVV is aware there may be confusion due to the differing directions on face masks and will continue to engage with industry. Advised CPVV is looking to create videos and other media forms to educate and remind drivers of the requirements in a simplistic way to ensure the risk of community transmission is mitigated.

Other Updates

- AM confirmed the hotel quarantine program is running again and has reached a period in their cycle where people are being released from quarantine. Confirmed CQV have not engaged any commercial passenger vehicle operator to transport anyone too or between quarantine noting CPVV continues to work with CQV to provide support on the operation.
 - In relation to a question taken on notice at last week's industry brief, AM confirmed if necessary CPVV does have the ability to download footage to support investigations into compliance of face masks.
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- Thanked industry for their patience, compliance and engagement over the COVID-19 response period and wished attendees a safe and happy holidays.
 - 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 January 2021 with an invite to follow in the new year.
 - 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.

24 December 2020 – Point of Clarification

Thank you to all who attend the COVID-19 Commercial Passenger Industry Brief on 23 December 2020 to listen to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) outline the public health requirements for surveillance testing in the commercial passenger vehicle (CPV) industry. Whilst current public health controls, including the Victorian Government's quarantine program, have significantly reduced the likelihood of the CPV Industry providing services to international arrivals, Commercial Passenger Vehicles Victoria (CPVV) acknowledges concerns raised as a result of information provided by DHHS at the industry brief.

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CPVV recognises the concerns raised by industry regarding DHHS's proposed process for the identification of international arrivals by the CPV industry and other transport service providers, and has flagged those concerns with DHHS. CPVV is actively proposing alternate solutions for the easy identification of those passengers for consideration by DHHS and will continue to keep industry informed of any developments. In the interim where drivers become aware a passenger is an international arrival through the booking process or general discussion with passengers during a trip CPV drivers must follow the public health requirements for Coronavirus (COVID-19) testing <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/surveillance-testing-industry-list-covid-19>.

For now, please keep playing your part in keeping everyone safe

- Make sure drivers wear a fitted face mask when carrying passengers
- Follow the [cleaning laws](#) for the CPV industry
- If you or your associated drivers have any symptoms, get tested and isolate until you get a negative result
- Encourage drivers to participate in the all of industry surveillance testing program

24 December 2020 – Additional advice on behalf of DHHS

Please see our frequently asked questions (FAQs) page for additional advice from DHHS: <https://cpv.vic.gov.au/drivers/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-faqs2>