

MINUTES

Minutes of the COVID 19 CPVV Industry Update Meeting

Date: 29 September 2021

Time: 2pm to 2.25pm

Location: Microsoft Teams Video Conference

Attendees

Melissa O'Brien (MO) (CPVV), Ian Matthews (IM) (CPVV), Emily McLean (EML) (CPVV), Hannah E Norris (CPVV), Karly R Hillas (CPVV), Lisa Marquez (CPVV), Michelle A Thomas (CPVV), Alice Nguyen (Silver Top), Colin Wells (Bendigo Taxis), Eddie Gibbons (Double Black Alpine), Greg Hardeman (13 Cabs), Joshua Makari (Ola), Ken Leacy (Ola), Liv Danckert (Shebah), Paulina Bartnikiewicz (NetCabs), Ray Kelsey (Black & White Cabs), Sam Vines (Uber) and Victoria Draudins (Uber).

Discussion

- Melissa O'Brien (MO) welcomed and thanked all attendees for attending and displayed presentation.
- MO made the following comments:

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

Current restrictions

- The main update to restrictions since we last met is that Greater Geelong and Surf Coast Shire are no longer under lockdown, therefore the six reasons to leave home remain in place across metropolitan Melbourne and Mitchell Shire (but the rest of regional Victoria has no restrictions on leaving the home).
- It will be vital as the State opens up that COVIDSafe practices are followed. Face mask and QR code requirements will remain in place in addition to cleaning regulations.
- With regard to vaccines, we note that the Premier announced that the Chief Health Officer will review each group of authorised workers to determine whether vaccinations will become mandatory for each group.
- At this stage, we have no indication about whether vaccinations for CPV drivers will be mandated but will keep you informed if we do receive information about this.
- Please continue to encourage drivers to get vaccinated in the meantime.
- Emily McLean (EML) added the following comments:
 - CPVV's current survey of drivers in the industry has been helpful in providing vital information around industry vaccination rates and attitudes towards vaccination. The results of the survey will be shared once we have a comprehensive dataset to share, with early findings showing that a significant portion of drivers in our industry are vaccinated.
 - A vaccine campaign to encourage drivers to get vaccinated will be launched soon, using drivers to encourage other drivers to get vaccinated via a series of videos. There will also be stakeholder packs that CPVV will send to BSPs - these will include social media posts, videos and short blogs which BSPs are welcome to share. This is an exciting campaign that we hope will drive behaviour change.

MINUTES

- BSP feedback on vaccines or attitudes can be referred directly to emily.k.mclean@cpv.vic.gov.au.

Cleaning regulations

- With regard to the cleaning regulations, there's been an update to the approach we advised at the last briefing with government approving the CPV cleaning regulations to be extended for another year (until 1 October 2022).
- The requirements will remain unchanged, meaning that industry does not need to add or remove anything from the existing cleaning regime.
- An approved disinfectant must be used. A list of these can be found on the TGA website and we will share this link as part of CPVV's supporting communications.
- Please note that the list does not recommend hand sanitiser as a product which should be used to clean surfaces.

Safety compliance and enforcement

- Ian Matthews (IM) provided an update on CPVV's safety compliance and enforcement activities, noting:
- With regional areas **opening** up and drivers from metropolitan areas potentially arriving to work in regional areas (as a result of greater activity there), BSPs are reminded that drivers are authorised workers who can work outside of their home. Drivers are currently able to pick up a passenger from either metropolitan Melbourne or regional Victoria and provide services to an area which is under different restrictions. BSPs are encouraged to raise any specific concerns in this regard through CPVV's 'Safety Inbox'.
- Findings from a recent civil court case were recently published which involved a claim for negligence by a taxi driver against a vehicle owner. The driver was seriously harmed in 2013 as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning whilst using the vehicle. The findings highlight the importance of vehicle maintenance. While it is important for owners to ensure vehicles are maintained and serviced regularly, it is also incumbent on BSPs to ensure that servicing is conducted by suitable (qualified) mechanics. Additionally, BSP audits should assess the suitability of mechanics being used to provide the servicing. More information regarding risk management processes supporting BSPs can be found here: [Victorian Commercial Passenger Vehicle Industry Code of Practice, Part 1: Risk Culture and Safety Management](#).

Questions raised

1. *Do we have numbers around registered CPVV drivers that are vaccinated?*
As the CPVV survey is voluntary, it won't include all CPVV drivers but, so far, the numbers are significant and will provide some meaningful data when available.
2. *Does CPVV know if the Government is going to provide further funding for supporting COVID requirements?*
The Minister has reconvened the CPV Advisory Panel to discuss suitable support measures for the industry. While there are no recommendations or Government responses as yet, we will provide updates when they become available.
3. *How will CPVV be checking records for servicing? BSPs may be able to adopt those policies regarding who can/cannot service their vehicle.*

BSPs are not expected to direct owners as to who can service their vehicles but should seek verification that servicing and repair activities on vehicles are being undertaken by suitably qualified professionals (consistent with manufacturer guidelines). Check CPVV's [Code of Practice](#) for further detail about this.

4. *As an extension of question 3, how is CPVV applying its processes to other service providers/independents that aren't associated with a BSP?*

CPVV can direct independent vehicle owners to provide evidence that servicing and repairs are being undertaken by suitably qualified professionals (consistent with manufacturer guidelines).

5. *As some industries are now required to be vaccinated (e.g. Ambulance Victoria non-critical work, Aged Care, Education) with CPV drivers providing services in those spaces, does that mean that CPV drivers operating in the areas also need to be vaccinated?*

This will depend on how the mandatory vaccination directions define the term 'worker'. Directions relating to vaccination requirements will continue to come from the Department of Health (not CPVV) based on public health advice.

6. *If BSPs want to mandate vaccinations for their drivers, where do they stand?*

Fair Work Australia sets out what you need to consider if you are thinking about mandating vaccination in your workplace - see <https://coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au/coronavirus-and-australian-workplace-laws/covid-19-vaccinations-and-the-workplace/covid-19-vaccinations-workplace-rights-and-obligations#requiring-employees-to-be-vaccinated>.

- Any further queries or feedback to be directed to CPVV's Safety Mailbox safety@cpv.vic.gov.au.
- Advised that the next COVID-19 CPVV Industry update is scheduled for 9 November 2021 at 2pm.
- If there are any significant changes to the matters discussed, CPVV will communicate these to industry via email, social media and/or text message.
- Feedback on the industry briefing process, including any improvement suggestions, are welcome at any time.
- Meeting closed at 2.25pm.