

11 February 2022

Workers Health Centre Covid19 Protocol

These protocols are focused on the safety of our staff, contractors, injured workers and others with whom we interact.

The Workers Health Centre (WHC) has continued to operate as close to normal as possible during the COVID-19 outbreak, taking account of any protective measures recommended by NSW Health as well as the Health Orders mandated from time to time. Our Covid19 protocols ensure stakeholders can have confidence that there will be service continuity and the high-level standards pursuant to the WHC's quality assurance framework will continue to apply during the pandemic.

Our consultants are highly experienced allied health professionals and apply common sense and their professional judgement in determining the best method of interacting with clients. During the pandemic consultants are utilising electronic meeting arrangements instead of face-to-face meetings with clients, insurers, and other medical professionals etc where practicable. In the event that they decide it is unavoidable to undertake face to face visits (e.g. when undertaking ADL's, Workplace Assessments and Functional Assessments) they follow the advice of NSW Health related to personal hygiene and infection protection. In addition, commencing 14 February 2022 the Workers Health Centre has adopted the following minimum requirements:

In Person Consultations:

The NSW Government Health Protocols updated on 4 February have relaxed the working from home requirements and it is now discretionary for employers. To ensure the health and safety of staff, consultants and injured workers is prioritised, consultants can use their discretion in respect to face-to-face meetings and can continue to utilise teleconference technologies wherever practicable.

No consultant is required to undertake a face-to-face consultation notwithstanding compliance with this Protocol

WHC Consultants are required to be either double vaccinated and if they are symptomatic undertake a Rapid Antigen Test prior to undertaking a face-to-face consultation. A confidential register of the vaccination status of staff and contractors will be held by the WHC. All other participants are required to be double vaccinated and provide evidence to the WHC of their vaccination status or provide to the consultant evidence of a negative Rapid Antigen Test that is conducted immediately prior to the meeting. The Workers Health Centre will meet the costs of the tests in the above circumstances.

All consultants and clients are required to wear a surgical mask (N95 masks are recommended) and maintain social distancing during all face-to-face consultations. Consultants will ensure they have spare masks available should the client not present with a mask at the time of the appointment. Consultations including

functional assessment will only be conducted in accordance with the social distancing requirements of the Health Orders, currently 1 person per 2square metres.

In respect to Workplace Assessments the WHC requires a copy of the company's Covid19 Policy and will only undertake workplace visits where it is satisfied that such policy is consistent with this protocol.

Clients will be screened utilising the following screening questions both in the lead up to the meeting and on the day:

Preliminary Screening Questions

- a) Can you provide evidence of COVID-19 Vaccination? 3.
- b) Do you have any COVID-19 symptoms? 4.
- c) Have you been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case in the past 14 days?
- d) 5. Have you returned from overseas in the past 14 days

Meeting Questions

- (e) *have your answers to the preliminary screening questions changed since you answered them prior to the appointment*
- (f) *are you or other household members considered highly vulnerable/immunosuppressed and been advised by their treating doctor to avoid face to face contact*
- (g) *based on your answers and your knowledge of your current health status do you wish to continue this meeting*

Zoom, teleconferences and other electronic meeting arrangements:

Consultants who are not double vaccinated can continue to utilise electronic meeting arrangements instead of face-to-face meetings with clients, insurers, and other medical professionals.

Parramatta and Newcastle Offices:

In the interests of health and safety no staff, contractors or visitors will be permitted in either of our workplaces unless they are Double Vaccinated. The Workers Health Centre is set up to operate remotely for our administrative functions without any disruption to our day-to-day activities. Our Parramatta and Newcastle offices will progressively reopen in consultation with staff.

This protocol will be continuously reviewed having regard for advice from NSW Health, SIRA, iCare, ARPA, APA, ASORC and other professional bodies applicable to our consultants. See the following links for the most up to date information from NSW Health.

www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe

[COVID-19 testing clinics | NSW Government](#)

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/covid-19/Documents/screening-procedure-nsw-health-facilities.pdf>