



Our ref: CORP F2026/000007  
Receipt No: 22795819

CORPORATE SERVICES  
Level 20  
11 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 1671  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 667  
Tel 8429 0422  
www.pir.sa.gov.au

9 February 2026

Removed from Disclosure Log

Dear Removed from Disclosure Log

### Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 9 January 2026, seeking access to the following:

*“Documents held by PIRSA relating to COVID-19 vaccination requirements and workforce vaccination policies affecting the poultry and food processing sector in South Australia during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2022.*

*Specifically, I request access to any documents, including but not limited to correspondence, emails, industry guidance, advisory material, briefings, meeting records, or communications (whether internal or external), relating to:*

- COVID-19 vaccination requirements or workforce vaccination policies applicable to poultry producers or food processing employers in South Australia;*
- Alignment or interaction between industry guidance and Public Health Orders issued by SA Health;*
- Communications between PIRSA and poultry producers, food processing employers, industry bodies, or other government agencies (including SA Health) regarding vaccination requirements, compliance expectations, or workforce impacts.”*

Timeframe: 1/1/2021 to 31/3/2022

On 7 January 2026 you enquired with PIRSA’s Senior Freedom of Information Advisor whether PIRSA held documents relating to *“COVID-19 vaccination requirements or workforce vaccination policies for food or poultry processing facilities in South Australia around early 2022”*. PIRSA’s Senior Freedom of Information Advisor confirmed on 9 January 2026 that PIRSA holds the documents you were seeking.

On 14 January 2026, PIRSA’s Records Management and Freedom of Information Support Officer contacted you to clarify that your request was seeking information relating to poultry and poultry food processors in which you confirmed.

**OFFICIAL**

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located six documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

**Determination 1**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

<b>Doc No.</b>	<b>Description of document</b>	<b>No. of Pages</b>
3	Email thread between PIRSA officer to Executive Director, Office of the Chief Executive PIRSA dated 13/1/2022 re COVID Industry Update	4
6	Final email from PIRSA:COVID19 Industry dated 13/1/2022 re COVID Industry Update	4

**Determination 2**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

<b>Doc No.</b>	<b>Description of document</b>	<b>No. of Pages</b>
2	Email thread between Executive Director, Office of the Chief Executive PIRSA and Deputy Chief Public Health Officer SA Health dated 10/1/2022 re industry advice for critical food supply chains	4
4	Email thread between Executive Director, Office of the chief Executive PIRSA and Deputy Chief Public Health Officer SA Health dated 10/1/2022 re industry advice for critical food supply chains	3

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

***“6 - Documents affecting personal affairs***

*(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”*

The information removed consists of the names and email addresses of third parties and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental staff.

Consent has not been provided to disclose the names of the third parties and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

**Determination 3**

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email thread between Executive Director, Office of the Chief Executive PIRSA, Chief Veterinary Officer PIRSA and Chief Executive PIRSA dated 10/1/2022 re industry advice for critical food supply chains	4

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 6(1) and 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information removed pursuant to Clause 6(1) consists of the name of a third party and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental staff.

The term 'personal affairs' has been held to involve 'matters of private concern to an individual' and the 'composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned'.

Consent has not been provided to disclose the name of the third party and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Clause 9(1) states:

***“9—Internal working documents***

*(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—*

*(a) that relates to -*

*(i) any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or*

*(ii) any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making functions of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and*

*(b) the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”*

The information removed pursuant to Clause 9(1) consists of information that was prepared in a working draft format and was not included in the final document.

In addressing the public interest test requirement for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- Providing an agency with the ability to undertake internal consultation without unnecessary interference.
- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government.
- Release of this information would discourage the flow of free exchange of ideas and options during early deliberative processes.
- Preserving the integrity of information-gathering processes, including some internal communications, leading up to the finalisation of decisions.
- Recognising that internal discussion processes are required to be undertaken to enable an agency to provide information to the public on matters of concern and interest.
- If such detail was released, it would jeopardise the willingness of Departmental officers to communicate in an open and frank manner.
- The early editorial deliberations do not provide context of public interest regarding the final text, which has been released as part of this determination.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

**Determination 4**

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
5	Email thread between Chief Veterinary Officer PIRSA and Chief Executive PIRSA dated 15/11/2021 re COVID vaccination	4

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information refused consists of detail relating to a confidential conversation for internal decision-making purposes.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- The knowledge that government agencies and industry are working together in order to address cross-government matters.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The confidentiality of some subjects must be maintained for internal decision-making purposes of Government.
- Recognising that internal discussion processes are required to be undertaken to enable an agency to provide information to the public on matters of concern and interest. The information was provided on an expectation of confidentiality with the recipients.
- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- The information is not public knowledge.
- Release of this information would discourage the flow of free exchange of ideas and options during deliberative processes.
- Preserving the integrity of information-gathering processes, including some internal communications, leading up to the finalisation of decisions.
- If such detail was released, it would jeopardise the willingness of Departmental officers to communicate in an open and frank manner.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation [Making a Freedom of Information Application | State Records of South Australia \(archives.sa.gov.au\)](#), by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

Freedom of Information Principal Officer  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
GPO Box 1671  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email [PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au)

OFFICIAL

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at

[http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf](http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf)

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email [PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths

**Accredited Freedom of Information Officer  
DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS**

## Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)

---

**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 January 2026 11:28 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Cindy (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Fw: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

OFFICIAL

Kind regards,

**Cindy Roberts** | Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief Executive, Jo Collins  
**Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
Level 21, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide  
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001  
**T:** +61 88429 0431 | **E:** [cindy.roberts@sa.gov.au](mailto:cindy.roberts@sa.gov.au)

---

**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 7:57 PM  
**To:** Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <[Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au)>; Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <[Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

OFFICIAL

All good Mehdi, we'll get it sorted.  
Jo

---

**From:** Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <[Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 7:39 PM  
**To:** Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <[Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <[Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

Elena Anear team needs to provide support here. Yes it can be Cameron. Let me know if I need to raise it with Peter Appleford or Elena. Thanks Mehdi

Sent from my iPhone

On 10 Jan 2022, at 5:50 pm, Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <[Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au)> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Jo,

I have made some edits below.

I do not want to be the contact for all industry- I can manage the major processors and understand the complexity of their business, but would prefer someone else to be the email contact point. If that could be Cameron I would be very appreciative.

Regards Mary

**Dr Mary Carr** | Chief Veterinary Officer  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
P: +61 8 8429 0766 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: [mary.carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:mary.carr@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



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Courage & Tenacity | Sustainability**

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**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <[Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 4:54 PM  
**To:** Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <[Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <[Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Mary, see draft email to SA Health below. I've listed your name below but we can discuss getting Cam (or others) to assist if / as needed. Let me know if you have any changes.  
Jo

Hi Clause 6(1)

*Following the CE Council mtg this afternoon, and the agreement that we would communicate resolutions to industry, I'm seeking your confirmation / endorsement of the advice we plan to send to industry – below. We also have an industry leaders meeting tomorrow afternoon.*

*In response to the impacts of close contacts on critical food supply chains, the following actions will be taken.*

- *SA Health / SAPOL to make changes to SA directions later this week to align with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's guidelines 'AHPPC Permissions and Restrictions for Workers in Food and Grocery Supply – Interim Guidance'. This guidance applies to critical food*

and grocery production, manufacturing, logistics and distribution facilities. It **does not apply** to retail sites open to the public.

- **Clause 9(1)**  
*Businesses will need to provide a list of workers identified as critical to the business, who are close contacts of a positive COVID case. Exempted workers will be able to attend their workplace if:*
  - They are asymptomatic
  - Have received their double vaccination (and booster if due)
  - Return a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to entering the worksite (daily)
  - Only leave home for work purposes
  - Masks are worn at all times when in their workplace unless away from others consuming food or beverages. Any staff required to be near them will also need to wear masks
  - Appropriate
  - Other hygiene measures are enforced by the business as per their COVID management plans
- **This is an interim measure to address high impacts on service delivery currently being experienced until changes to SA directions are made later this week.**

Scope

- **Critical workers** involved in the manufacture and processing of food and fibre will be defined as follows:
  - A worker involved in:
    - The production and distribution of—
      - food and groceries for sale by a - grocery store, supermarket, butcher, bakery, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger;
      - an abattoir, meat, seafood or poultry processing plant;
      - primary industries but only time critical tasks where delay would jeopardise the present or future availability of food or other essential goods or services;

Businesses can email **Clause 9(1)** the list of critical staff currently required to isolate, confirming that they will meet the above requirements.

Please advise if we have captured this correctly.

Many thanks **Clause 6(1)**

Jo

**Jo Collins** | Executive Director  
Office of the Chief Executive | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**  
Government of South Australia | 25 Grenfell Street, Adelaide  
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001  
**P:** +61 8429 2190 | **M:** + **Clause 6(1)** | **E:** [jo.collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:jo.collins@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)





**Government of South Australia**

Department of Primary Industries  
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**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

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**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, 16 January 2026 11:29 AM  
**To:** Roberts, Cindy (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Fw: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

OFFICIAL

Kind regards,

**Cindy Roberts** | Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief Executive, Jo Collins  
 Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
 Level 21, 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide  
 GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001  
**T:** +61 88429 0431 | **E:** [cindy.roberts@sa.gov.au](mailto:cindy.roberts@sa.gov.au)

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**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:03 PM  
**To:** Price, Simon (PIRSA) <Simon.Price@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

OFFICIAL

FYI Simon

---

**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 8:02 PM  
**To:** <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> (Health) <<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>@sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> (Health) <<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>@sa.gov.au>; Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au>; <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>  
 (Health) <<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>@sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

OFFICIAL

Thanks for the quick response <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> – and for your assistance with exemptions thus far – it's greatly appreciated. Hopefully one letter can be issued per business vs individual letters to staff to reduce the workload on SA Health.  
 Kind regards  
 Jo

---

**From:** <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> (Health) <<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 6:56 PM  
**To:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <[Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup> (Health) <<sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>@sa.gov.au>; Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au>; <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>

(Health) <[redacted]@sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

Hi Jo

Agree with this approach and is consistent with advice I received from [redacted] this afternoon. I have already given a number of exemption for positive workers to work tonight and close contacts tomorrow in accordance with the requirements outlined below. I would also add that meal and tea breaks should be taken outside. These areas are where PPE is taken off and the risk is greatest

PIRSA will need to do the sanity check on applications to ensure it passes the pub test as we will not be in a position to verify. Once PIRSA has approved it we will issue exemptions.

Everyone though exemptions finished at New Year

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted] AM  
BSc MB ChB FRACP FCICM  
Senior Intensive Care Consultant  
Deputy Chief Public Health Officer  
Deputy Health State Controller

Tel [redacted]  
Mobile [redacted]  
e-mail [redacted]@sa.gov.au

---

**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 6:37 PM

**To:** [redacted] (Health) <[redacted]@sa.gov.au>

**Cc:** [redacted] (Health) <[redacted]@sa.gov.au>; Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au>; [redacted] (Health) <[redacted]@sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au>

**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted]

Following the CE Council mtg this afternoon, and the agreement that we would communicate resolutions to industry, I'm seeking your confirmation / endorsement of the advice we plan to send to industry – below. We also have an industry leaders meeting tomorrow afternoon.

In response to the impacts of close contacts on critical food supply chains, the following actions will be taken.

- SA Health / SAPOL to make changes to SA directions later this week to align with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's guidelines 'AHPPC Permissions and Restrictions for Workers in Food and Grocery Supply – Interim Guidance'. This guidance applies to critical food and grocery production, manufacturing, logistics and distribution facilities. It **does not apply** to retail sites open to the public.
- In the interim, exemptions for close contacts currently required to isolate, which is resulting in businesses experiencing a high impact on service delivery, can apply to PIRSA for an exemption to allow staff to leave

isolation to attend the workplace (PIRSA will seek written exemption from SA Health on behalf of the business). Businesses will need to provide a list of workers identified as critical to the business, who are close contacts of a positive COVID case. Exempted workers will be able to attend their workplace if:

- They are asymptomatic
- Have received their double vaccination (and booster if due)
- Return a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to entering the worksite (daily)
- Only leave home for work purposes
- Masks are worn at all times when in their workplace unless away from others consuming food or beverages. Any staff required to be near them will also need to wear masks
- Appropriate
- Other hygiene measures are enforced by the business as per their COVID management plans
- **This is an interim measure to address high impacts on service delivery currently being experienced until changes to SA directions are made later this week.**

#### Scope

- **Critical workers** involved in the manufacture and processing of food and fibre will be defined as follows:
  - A worker involved in:
    - The production and distribution of—
      - food and groceries for sale by a - grocery store, supermarket, butcher, bakery, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger;
      - an abattoir, meat, seafood or poultry processing plant;
      - primary industries but only time critical tasks where delay would jeopardise the present or future availability of food or other essential goods or services;

Businesses can email xxx the list of critical staff currently required to isolate, confirming that they will meet the above requirements.

Please advise if we have captured this correctly.

Many thanks Clause 6(1)

Jo

**Jo Collins** | Executive Director

Office of the Chief Executive | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

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**P:** +61 8429 2190 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** [jo.collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:jo.collins@sa.gov.au)

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**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

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**From:** Poskett, Stephen (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 1:04 PM  
**To:** Anear, Elena (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** FW: Draft COVID Industry update.

**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

See below

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**From:** Lloyd-Wright, Ruth (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 10:04 AM  
**To:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Anear, Elena (PIRSA) ; Poskett, Stephen (PIRSA) ; Rodrigues, Sam (PIRSA) ; May, Cameron (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft COVID Industry update.  
**Importance:** High

Hi Jo,

Please see final content below for this morning industry update. Usually it would be sent to Stephen and then Elena for approval prior (both cc'd), but in the interest of expediency Cam suggested I send straight to you.

Let me know if you have any changes. Once approved we are on standby to upload to the template and send.

## **COVID-19 POSITIVE AND CLOSE CONTACT REQUIREMENTS**

If you become aware you are COVID-19 positive, or a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, you need to comply with the isolation, testing, reporting and other requirements as outlined on the SA Health website [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDtesting](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDtesting).

## **SPECIFIED WORKPLACES OR INDUSTRIES – RETURN OF CLOSE CONTACT CRITICAL WORKERS**

The Chief Public Health Officer has the authority to give specified workplaces or industries different requirements. If your industry is mentioned and a nominated officer gives you their approval you have different requirements to the general public.

In that case, you must comply with the [permissions for close contact critical workers to return to worksite](#) protocol when attending your workplace or work function. When not at work you must comply with the usual isolation, testing and reporting requirements.

The protocol applies to the following **primary industry related services**:

- food manufacture and distribution (excluding retail and hospitality)
- veterinary services and animal welfare
- agriculture
- freight/logistics

Agriculture and food manufacture and distribution should be interpreted as the following:

- the production and distribution of:
  - food, beverages, and groceries for sale by a - grocery store, liquor store, supermarket, butcher, bakery, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger
- an abattoir, meat, seafood or poultry processing plant
- primary industries, including forestry activities, but only time critical tasks where delay would jeopardise the present or future availability of food or other essential goods or services.

Close contacts who are critical workers employed in the above list of services can return to work if the **relevant Chief Executive or person conducting a business** implements the protocol and approves its application to the person.

To trigger this process, the workforce **capacity to maintain a function needs to be under significant strain** and **alternative options for support need to be first exhausted**. Any permission for returning close contacts to the workplace needs to be done carefully and in conjunction with comprehensive, risk mitigation plans based on multi-layered infection prevention and control. Whilst close contact critical workers are considered in these limited circumstances to be able to work, the health and wellbeing of the worker themselves, other staff members and the broader community remains of critical importance.

Work permissions for close contact critical workers should be time limited and regularly reviewed as the pandemic situation in South Australia evolves and stabilises. Where demand on service decreases to manageable levels, work permissions should be shifted back to standard quarantine requirements.

**Note:** Allowing close contacts who are critical workers to continue working needs to be balanced with the risk of further disease transmission in worksites which could lead to even greater disruption than what was originally being sought to be addressed. Careful consideration is required by businesses when deciding to allow close contact critical workers to return to work, as this may increase the risk to the business should an outbreak occur.

## **REQUIREMENTS OF THE CLOSE CONTACT CRITICAL WORKER:**

1. The critical worker must be separated from the person who is COVID-19 positive and commence the 7-day quarantine period from the date of last contact with the COVID-19 case.
2. The close contact critical worker must be fully vaccinated (including a third dose if eligible).
3. Must be completely free of all COVID-symptoms (including headache, sore throat, runny/blocked nose, difficulty breathing, muscle or joint aches and pains, fever/chills, cough, vomiting/diarrhoea, loss of taste, loss of smell or loss of appetite).
4. Must have undertaken a PCR test prior to returning to work (can return whilst awaiting PCR result as long as that day's RAT (rapid antigen test) is negative and may continue if PCR negative).
5. Must maintain quarantine at all times when not onsite at work.
6. Must complete a RAT at the start of every shift they attend inclusive of a daily RAT for days 1 to 7 since last contact with a case. All RATs must be negative.
7. If symptoms develop, must not attend work and must obtain a PCR test immediately (work permissions will be suspended until the PCR returns negative).
8. Must not use public transport or other forms of shared transport to travel to work.
9. Must wear a surgical mask at all times at work (an N95 mask will be required if working in a setting with vulnerable people).
10. Must take meal and any other breaks alone and preferably in an outside space.
11. Only undertake critical work functions – this does not include for example staff meetings, staff social functions or professional development activities.

More information on business and workplace requirements can be found in the [SA Health protocol](#).

### **Accessing rapid antigen tests**

If you are a close contact, you can access two free rapid antigen tests from RAT Collection Points across the state. You must [register before collecting your kits](#) from the RAT Collection Point.

Find more information about the [Adelaide - Josie Agius Park/Wikaparntu Wirra RAT Collection Point](#).

If you are not a close contact, rapid antigen tests are sold commercially in supermarkets and pharmacies.

## **RECORDING OF RESULTS FROM RAPID ANTIGEN TEST**

All results, whether positive, negative or invalid of a rapid antigen test must be recorded using the form provided on the SA Health website.

You must report your result if you get your test from a designated RAT Collection Point, a retail outlet, your workplace or through any other means (ie over the internet).

[Report your result online](#) or call the SA COVID-19 Information Line on [1800 253 787](#) to report your result.

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Poskett, Stephen (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 8:33 PM  
**To:** Anear, Elena (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains

FYI

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**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 10, 2022 8:30:04 PM  
**To:** May, Cameron (PIRSA) ; Poskett, Stephen (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains  
 OFFICIAL

FYI Cam / Stephen, we will need to discuss how we will manage this over the next couple of days.  
 Jo

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**From:** Clause 6(1) (Health) <Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 6:56 PM  
**To:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <[Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Clause 6(1) (Health) <Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au>; Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <[Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au)>; Clause 6(1)  
 (Health) <Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <[Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains  
 Hi Jo

Agree with this approach and is consistent with advice I received from Clause 6(1) this afternoon. I have already given a number of exemption for positive workers to work tonight and close contacts tomorrow in accordance with the requirements outlined below. I would also add that meal and tea breaks should be taken outside. These areas are where PPE is taken off and the risk is greatest

PIRSA will need to do the sanity check on applications to ensure it passes the pub test as we will not be in a position to verify. Once PIRSA has approved it we will issue exemptions.

Everyone though exemptions finished at New Year

Regards

Clause 6(1)  
Clause 6(1) AM

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**From:** Collins, Jo (PIRSA) <[Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Collins@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 10 January 2022 6:37 PM  
**To:** Clause 6(1) (Health) <Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Clause 6(1) Health <Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au>; Carr, Mary (PIRSA) <[Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mary.Carr@sa.gov.au)>; Clause 6(1)  
 (Health) <Clause 6(1) @sa.gov.au>; Doroudi, Mehdi (PIRSA) <[Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au](mailto:Mehdi.Doroudi@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR APPROVAL: Industry Advice re critical food supply chains  
 OFFICIAL

Hi <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>

Following the CE Council mtg this afternoon, and the agreement that we would communicate resolutions to industry, I'm seeking your confirmation / endorsement of the advice we plan to send to industry – below. We also have an industry leaders meeting tomorrow afternoon.

In response to the impacts of close contacts on critical food supply chains, the following actions will be taken.

- SA Health / SAPOL to make changes to SA directions later this week to align with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's guidelines 'AHPPC Permissions and Restrictions for Workers in Food and Grocery Supply – Interim Guidance'. This guidance applies to critical food and grocery production, manufacturing, logistics and distribution facilities. It **does not apply** to retail sites open to the public.
- In the interim, exemptions for close contacts currently required to isolate, which is resulting in businesses experiencing a high impact on service delivery, can apply to PIRSA for an exemption to allow staff to leave isolation to attend the workplace (PIRSA will seek written exemption from SA Health on behalf of the business). Businesses will need to provide a list of workers identified as critical to the business, who are close contacts of a positive COVID case. Exempted workers will be able to attend their workplace if:
  - They are asymptomatic
  - Have received their double vaccination (and booster if due)
  - Return a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) prior to entering the worksite (daily)
  - Only leave home for work purposes
  - Masks are worn at all times when in their workplace unless away from others consuming food or beverages. Any staff required to be near them will also need to wear masks
  - Appropriate
  - Other hygiene measures are enforced by the business as per their COVID management plans
- This is an interim measure to address high impacts on service delivery currently being experienced until changes to SA directions are made later this week.

#### Scope

- **Critical workers** involved in the manufacture and processing of food and fibre will be defined as follows:
  - A worker involved in:
    - The production and distribution of—
      - food and groceries for sale by a - grocery store, supermarket, butcher, bakery, fruit and vegetable store or fishmonger;
    - an abattoir, meat, seafood or poultry processing plant;
    - primary industries but only time critical tasks where delay would jeopardise the present or future availability of food or other essential goods or services;

Businesses can email xxx the list of critical staff currently required to isolate, confirming that they will meet the above requirements.

Please advise if we have captured this correctly.

Many thanks <sup>Clause 6(1)</sup>

Jo

Jo Collins | Executive Director

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**Government of South Australia**

Department of Primary Industries  
and Regions

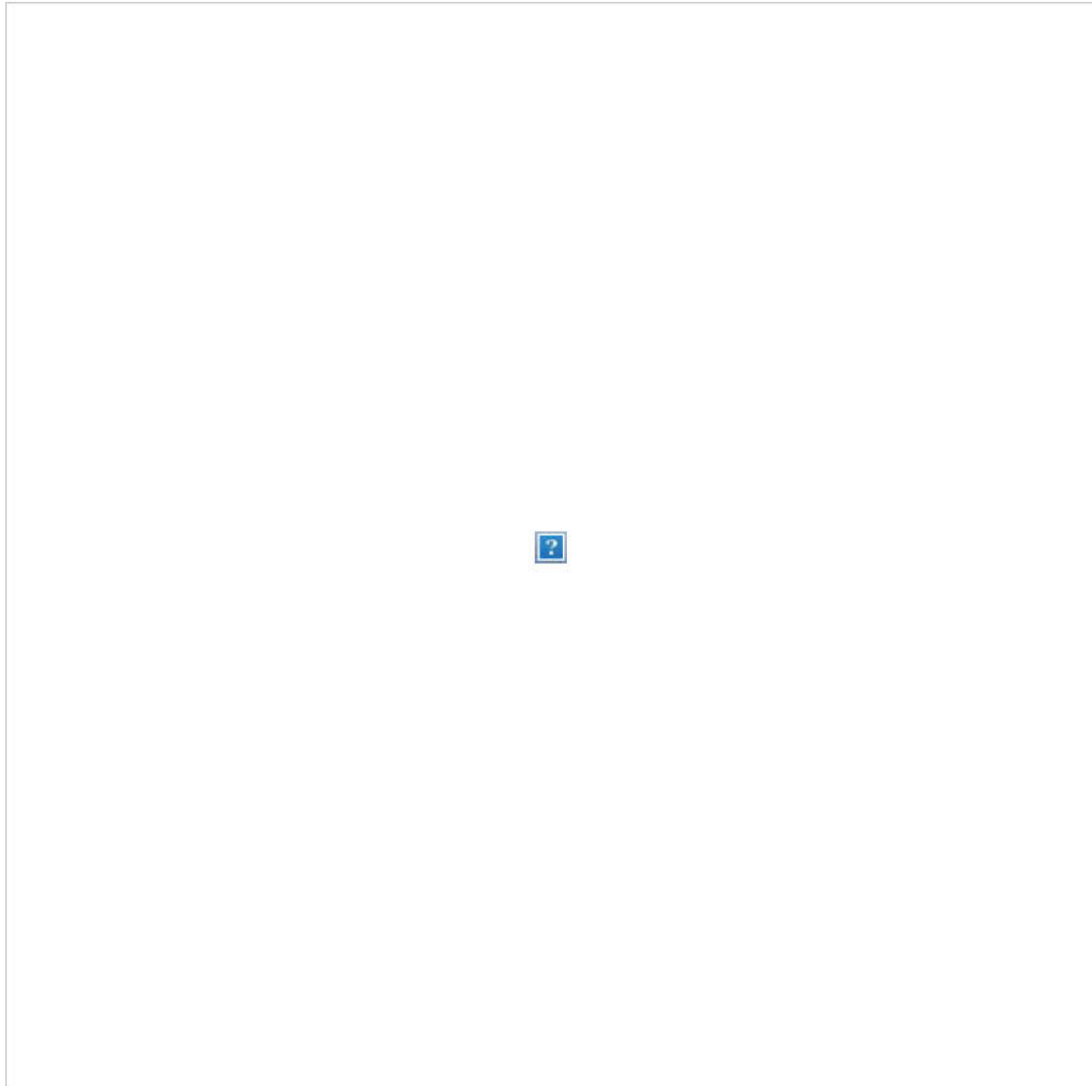
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**From:** [PIRSA:COVID19 Industry](#)  
**To:** [Smart, Sharon \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Industry update on COVID-19 for primary producers  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 January 2022 5:07:10 PM

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13 January 2022

## **Industry update on COVID-19 for primary producers**

Hi Sharon,

There are new COVID-19 industry updates for primary producers.

### **COVID-19 positive and close contact requirements**

If you become aware you are COVID-19 positive, or a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, you need to comply with the isolation, testing, reporting and other requirements as outlined on the SA Health website

[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDtesting](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVIDtesting).

## Specified workplaces or industries - return of close contact critical workers

The Chief Public Health Officer has the authority to give specified workplaces or industries different requirements. If your industry is mentioned and a nominated officer within your business gives you their approval you have different requirements to the general public.

In that case, you must comply with the permissions for close contact critical workers to return to worksite protocol when attending your workplace or work function. When not at work you must comply with the usual isolation, testing and reporting requirements.

The protocol applies to the following **primary industry related services**:

- food manufacture and distribution (excluding retail and hospitality)
- veterinary services and animal welfare
- agriculture
- freight/logistics

Close contacts who are critical workers employed in the above list of services can return to work if the **relevant Chief Executive or person conducting a business** implements the protocol and approves its application to the person.

To trigger this process, the workforce **capacity to maintain a function needs to be under significant strain** and **alternative options for support need to be first exhausted**. Any permission for returning close contacts to the workplace needs to be done carefully and in conjunction with comprehensive, risk mitigation plans based on multi-layered infection prevention and control. Whilst close contact critical workers are considered in these limited circumstances to be able to work, the health and wellbeing of the worker themselves, other staff members and the broader community remains of critical importance.

Work permissions for close contact critical workers should be time limited and regularly reviewed as the pandemic situation in South Australia evolves and stabilises. Where demand on service decreases to manageable levels, work permissions should be shifted back to standard quarantine requirements.

**Note:** Allowing close contacts who are critical workers to continue working needs to be balanced with the risk of further disease transmission in worksites which could lead to even greater disruption than what was originally being sought to be addressed.

### Requirements of the close contact critical worker

1. The critical worker must be separated from the person who is COVID-19 positive and commence the 7-day quarantine period from the date of last contact with the COVID-19 case.
2. The close contact critical worker must be fully vaccinated (including a third dose if eligible).

3. Must be completely free of all COVID-symptoms (including headache, sore throat, runny/blocked nose, difficulty breathing, muscle or joint aches and pains, fever/chills, cough, vomiting/diarrhoea, loss of taste, loss of smell or loss of appetite).
4. Must have undertaken a PCR test prior to returning to work (can return whilst awaiting PCR result as long as that day's RAT (rapid antigen test) is negative and may continue if PCR negative).
5. Must maintain quarantine at all times when not onsite at work.
6. Must complete a RAT at the start of every shift they attend inclusive of a daily RAT for days 1 to 7 since last contact with a case. All RATs must be negative.
7. If symptoms develop, must not attend work and must obtain a PCR test immediately (work permissions will be suspended until the PCR returns negative).
8. Must not use public transport or other forms of shared transport to travel to work.
9. Must wear a surgical mask at all times at work (an N95 mask will be required if working in a setting with vulnerable people).
10. Must take meal and any other breaks alone and preferably in an outside space.
11. Only undertake critical work functions – this does not include for example staff meetings, staff social functions or professional development activities

More information on business and workplace requirements can be found in the [SA Health protocol](#).

## **Accessing rapid antigen tests**

If you are a close contact, you can access two free rapid antigen tests from RAT Collection Points across the state. You must [register before collecting your kits](#) from the RAT Collection Point.

Find more information about the [Adelaide - Josie Agius Park/Wikaparntu Wirra RAT Collection Point](#).

If you are not a close contact, rapid antigen tests are sold commercially in supermarkets and pharmacies.

## **Recording results from a rapid antigen test**

All results, whether positive, negative or invalid of a rapid antigen test must be recorded using the form provided on the SA Health website.

You must report your result if you get your test from a designated RAT Collection Point, a retail outlet, your workplace or through any other means (ie over the internet).

[Report your result online](#) or call the SA COVID-19 Information Line on 1800 253 787 to report your result.

We will continue to provide information as it becomes available.

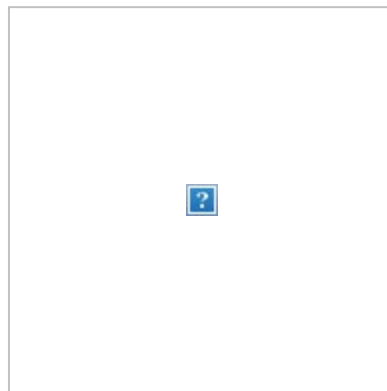
## More information

- [Testing and tracing requirements](#)
- [Primary Industries and COVID-19](#)
- [Existing directions, emergency declarations and FAQs](#)

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