

Pygmy Possum COVID Policy 2022

Elouera Ski Club members were informed (via email circulation) that on a recommendation from the Covid Safety Committee the Board intended to require full COVID-19 vaccination as the default for residence in Pygmy Possum Lodge once restrictions eased on 15th December 2021. Comments were invited. All responses were positive, the only issue of concern being what COVID test would be required for anyone who remained unvaccinated. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant means 15th December is not an end point and the situation remains in flux, and government policy may change at short notice.

The Board's policy is a Risk Minimisation strategy. We acknowledge that COVID-19 risk cannot be eliminated and that both vaccinated and non-vaccinated persons can catch and spread the infection. However, based on federal and state government policy and advice, full vaccination plus strategies to reduce aerosol spread remain the best ways to minimise risk of infection. To this end, we have installed HEPA filter air purifiers in the dining areas and a third unit will be installed shortly in the games room.

Policy for 2022 , subject to new advice or guidelines from NSW Health.

To minimise the chance of infection being brought to the Lodge all Members and Guests are required to either:

1. Be fully vaccinated or,
2. Have a timely negative COVID-19 PCR test prior to arrival (currently 3 days prior based on NSW Health guidelines).

Given current problems with PCR Testing and moving guidelines a Rapid Antigen Test may be accepted if deemed adequate at the time by NSW Health.

This restriction does not apply to people who are not eligible to be vaccinated at the time or in the highly restricted group that have official exemptions.

Age restrictions on vaccination and 'full' vaccination

- Well before 15th December 2021 full vaccination was available to those 12 years and over
- From 10th January 2022 vaccination roll out will commence for children 5 to 11 years
- Currently double vaccinated individuals are regarded as fully vaccinated, but it is likely to be extended to triple vaccination for some if not all age groups with the spread of the Omicron variant.

The Board expects all members and guests to respect these restrictions and to answer honestly when completing the online COVID Safe Waiver. Mask wearing will be optional and density rules will be relaxed unless otherwise advised by NSW Health.