

**Media release**

15 October 2021

**CEO survey reveals many businesses planning to restrict access to non-vaccinated**

A survey of 115 NZ CEOs of large to medium organisations has revealed that close to half are planning to mandate vaccinations for either all their workers, or those at risk. The survey also revealed that many more would mandate vaccination if there was clearer direction and support from government.

The Business Leaders’ Health and Safety Forum survey which closed this week, also shows that 30% of organisations plan to restrict access to their worksites for non-vaccinated contractors.

“The purpose of the survey was to better understand the strong sentiment of confusion among the business community and our members about how to manage vaccinations and Covid-19 in their workplace in an ever-changing environment,” says Forum Executive Director, Francois Barton.

“We asked our members to tell us how they were planning to manage issues around un-vaccinated workers, contractors and visitors; as well as the support they need in this area from government,” he says.

Of the 115 CEOs who responded:

* 46% said they are planning to mandate vaccinations for either all their workers, or those at risk
* When asked if they plan to restrict entry at their workplace:
  + 28% said they would be restricting access to non-vaccinated workers
  + 30% said they would be restricting access to non-vaccinated contractors
  + 27% said they would be restricting access to non-vaccinated visitors
* 33% already have a Covid vaccination policy in place, 44% are in the process of creating one.

“What’s most telling to the Forum is the growing willingness from businesses to restrict access to their organisation to workers, contractors and visitors who are not vaccinated,” Francois says.

“There is a solid desire from business leaders to take a risk-based duty of care, particularly as Covid-19 continues to spread around the country. However, there is a real lack of clarity from government to support businesses to make these decisions.

“We heard a strong call from CEOs for more guidance and direction from government to support the legal position around vaccinations and the workforce, and in many cases to mandate vaccinations.”

“Reasonable businesses want to do the right thing and ensure a healthy and safe workplace. With exposure to Delta effectively a certainty over the next three to six months, and the serious consequences for worker health and our health system of COVID infections, a healthy workplace is a vaccinated workplace.”

**ENDS**

*The survey of 115 CEOs ran from Friday 8 October – Tuesday 12 October, 2021*

**For media comment:** Francois Barton 027 297 9351