

APA (NSW) Member Update: Recall from isolation update
31 January 2022

Dear member,

We're continuing to push at the IRC for the safety of Paramedics returning to work after exposure to COVID-19.

Yesterday we secured an extension until **Thursday, 10 February** of the Commission's recommendation that **high risk** staff be given the right to refuse recall to work when they are meant to be isolating.

As per our last update, the recommendation now includes that staff can refuse to return (until 10 February 2022) upon provision of a significant concern they have regarding their return to work.

You likely have many safety concerns about returning, which could be impacted by your individual circumstances such as your location and type of work. Common safety concerns may include:

- Concern regarding your ability to eat on shift when you cannot use tea rooms or rest trailers and maintain social distancing
- Concern regarding heat related injury or illness when you cannot use rest trailers to cool down and maintain social distancing
- Concern regarding having to utilise public spaces (i.e., cafes, bathrooms) due to not having access to your home station during your shift and the potential risk that poses to members of the public
- Concern for your immunocompromised patients' safety
- Concern for your colleagues' safety given the size of your station or how many people are typically on station or stuck in bed block
- Concern for your psychological wellbeing given the stress around potentially being infectious
- Concern for patient safety if you infect others on station, leaving your community under-resourced
- You work in a Control Centre and are concerned about the ability to social distance in a cramped environment

Consultation remains underway with NSW Ambulance. We'll be back at the Commission next week, and will continue to champion patient and Paramedic safety.

In solidarity,

APA (NSW) Executive

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