

Premier Gladys Berejiklian

July 14, 2021

Dear Premier,

We are writing with alarm at the order made yesterday requiring essential workers in Fairfield to be tested every three days and for essential workers in the Greater Sydney to be tested every seven days.

We support any measures that keep the community safe but we are frustrated at the lack of planning and foresight regarding the latest health order on testing. Transport workers are being forced into long queues, including overnight, at testing centres ahead of shifts at work. Intra-state and inter-state workers, in particular heavy vehicle drivers, are unclear where testing centres are and are unable to ensure these tests can be carried out safely, taking into account long hours and fatigue rules.

This order was made with little information disseminated to workers and their representatives.

This is a frightening time for essential transport workers who are forced to put themselves and their families at risk by going to work and continuing to deliver an essential service in transporting goods and the public around. They should not have to face a trickle of unclear information and directions as they are performing their work in this environment.

We would ask you to urgently provide confirmation that you will action the following to rectify the situation:

- In the future, consult and provide information to workplaces, businesses and trade unions before such orders are made;
- Place testing hubs in or close to places of work, such as airports, truck stops, bus depots, delivery rider busy zones, taxi and rideshare stops;
- Provide paid leave for any essential workers forced to test and self-isolate due to close or casual contact with a COVID case
- Place vaccination hubs at the airports with information on how and when workers can get vaccinated.

Today our union has released details of low vaccination rates among aviation workers. This represents a major vulnerability in our fight to keep workers, their families and our community safe. We urge you to work with the Prime Minister to ensure that frontline workers at our airports and those involved in transporting the public are prioritised for vaccination to protect workers and reduce the risk of spread.

We would happily supply you with more information should you require it. We look forward to hearing from you shortly,

Yours sincerely,



Richard Olsen
TWU NSW Branch Secretary



Michael Kaine
TWU National Secretary