



Position statement: vaccinations in the workplace

SORSA supports the covid-19 vaccination for radiographers to work with patients. Many radiographers and students have tested positive for covid-19 since the start of the pandemic in April 2020. Some have sadly passed away from covid-19-related complications. Our condolences to their families and friends.

- Radiographers are frontline workers thus may be exposed to bacteria and/or viruses in their workplace. Various legislation pertains to all workers in South Africa, including the Bill Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 of 1996; and the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993 as amended as well as Schedule A, circular CF/103/2020: notice on compensation for occupationally-acquired novel corona virus disease (COVID-19).
- The Society of Radiographers of South Africa (SORSA) recommends that radiographers are conversant with Chapter 2 of the National Health Act 61 of 2003 in terms of the rights of patients.
- SORSA supports the Bill of Rights in terms of a radiographer's right: to have their dignity respected and protected; to bodily and psychological integrity which includes inter alia security in and control over their body, and not to be subjected to medical or scientific experiments without their informed consent; and to choose their trade, occupation or profession freely which may be regulated by law; and to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being.
- Employers should ensure that relevant health and safety regulations are adhered so that when necessary, radiographers, as frontline workers, are provided with relevant personal protection equipment.
- Radiographers as frontline healthcare practitioners are responsible for the implementation of infection control measures in their workplace to reduce spread of infection and disease to patients and co-workers.
- In the matter of employers requiring that employees must provide proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 there are several issues to consider including individual rights and the rights of others in the workplace. Radiographers should thus be conversant with the following.
 - Employment and labour on new direction with regard to vaccination in the workplace | South African Government. Available from: <https://www.gov.za/speeches/employment-and-labour-new-direction-regard-vaccination-workplace-14-jun-2021-0000>
 - Mandatory Covid-19 vaccination not really infringement on your rights – SAHRC. Available from: <https://www-news24-com.cdn.ampproject.org/wp/s/www.news24.com/amp/news24/southafrica/news/mandatory-covid-19-vaccination-not-really-infringement-on-your-rights-sahrc-20211004?usqp=mq331AQKKAFQArABIACAw%3D%3D>
 - Covid vaccine mandates don't have to undermine your rights. Available from: <https://www.wits.ac.za/covid19/covid19-news/latest/covid-vaccine-mandates-dont-have-to-undermine-your-rights.html>

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