



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# How residential aged care workers can access a COVID-19 vaccine

Information current as at 10 August 2021

**Residential aged care workers are prioritised to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of age.**

Every residential aged care worker will be offered a COVID-19 vaccination at their workplace. This will include on-site vaccination clinics or dedicated vaccination hubs in your area.

**Ask your employer which of the below options will be available to you:**

- 1. Onsite clinics at your workplace:** These clinics are being delivered by:
  - residential aged care providers
  - GPs
  - Commonwealth vaccine providers.
- 2. Dedicated vaccination hubs:** These hubs will be located near residential aged care facilities and will be delivered by Commonwealth vaccine providers. Refer to [Dedicated Vaccination Hubs](#) for information on vaccination hubs near your workplace.
- 3. Roving in-reach clinics:** Commonwealth roving clinics are returning to facilities to deliver in-reach clinics in 23 Local Government Areas in greater Sydney, and in Tier 1 locations in Victoria and Queensland.

You can also get your COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination through:

- 1. Primary care clinics:** You can access a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine or an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine at a general practice, Commonwealth vaccination clinic (GP respiratory clinic), Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service or pharmacy. Refer to the [eligibility checker](#) for available clinics in your state and territory.
- 2. State and territory clinics:** Residential aged care workers can get a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at state and territory-run mass vaccination clinics. Refer to the [eligibility checker](#) for available clinics in your state and territory.

Identify yourself as a residential aged care worker and you should be prioritised to receive an appointment within seven days at primary care and state and territory clinics.

You can also call the dedicated COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on 1800 020 080 (select option 4) for any questions you may have about vaccination or for help to book a vaccination appointment.

### What do I need to take to my vaccination appointment?

Aged care workers can confirm their eligibility by providing the following documents:

1. proof of identity (e.g. driver's licence, passport, birth certificate) **and**
2. proof of employment (e.g. one of the following)
  - [letter from your employer](#) confirming you have priority access
  - current work ID card or payslip confirming you are currently employed at a residential aged care facility, **and**
3. Medicare card, if you have one.

### Mandatory vaccination for residential aged care workers

From 17 September 2021, COVID-19 vaccination will be mandatory for residential aged care workers. A minimum first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is required by this time.

The [Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination of Residential Aged Care Workers framework](#) provides guidance from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee on who mandatory vaccination will apply to, at a minimum:

- full time, part time and casual staff employed or engaged on behalf of residential aged care facilities (such as agency staff working onsite) to deliver:
  - direct care (nurses; personal care workers; allied health professionals, and allied health assistants)
  - administration (reception; management; administration)
  - ancillary work (food preparation; cleaning; laundry; garden; maintenance)
  - lifestyle/social care (music/art therapy), and
  - transport – collecting residents for outings
- Volunteers engaged by facilities to work onsite
- Students on placement at the residential aged care facility, and
- Medical practitioners who attend and provide care to residents.

States and territories will release their public health orders and directions on mandatory vaccination and all residential aged care workers are strongly encouraged to read them as they become available.

### Support for COVID-19 vaccination of residential aged care workers

The [Residential Aged Care COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Support Grant](#) program was established to support workers who may need to get their vaccination at an offsite location:

- Casual residential aged care workers will be able to be paid via their employer:
  - a fee of \$80 per dose for offsite vaccination
  - a day of paid leave (\$185) if unwell after vaccination and they have no other leave entitlements).
- Up to \$500 per aged care facility is also available to contribute to costs that may be incurred in organising workers to be vaccinated offsite, such as transport services.

Applications for the grant program are made by residential aged care providers, and you can discuss the grant program with your aged care facility.