



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Information for residents on COVID-19 vaccination

Information current as at 13 July 2021

Vaccination is the most effective protection against COVID-19. Protecting residents in aged care and the workers who care for them is a priority.

For older Australians and others most at risk, getting vaccinated as quickly and safely as possible is critical. Vaccination will help to protect you from hospitalisation or death.

If you are not yet vaccinated, please be assured that your health and safety is a priority and there are a number of ways you can access your vaccination. Your facility will have information available to discuss with you the most convenient option for accessing your vaccination.

Residents in 2,566 residential aged care facilities across Australia have received COVID-19 vaccine first and second doses through the Commonwealth's vaccine roll out in aged care.

To ensure your protection, from mid-September it will be mandatory for residential aged care workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

In addition, your residential aged care service must now keep records and report on the number of residents and workers who have received a COVID-19 vaccination.

This will assist governments and residential aged care providers to understand how many residents and aged care workers are vaccinated against COVID-19. It will help to understand risks to residents and workers to prepare, plan and respond to a COVID-19 outbreak.

If there is a COVID-19 outbreak in your facility, it will be important to know how many residents and workers have been vaccinated so that protective measures can be put in place for those who have not been vaccinated.

Your aged care facility will discuss with you how they will collect and report information on the number of residents in the facility who have received a COVID-19 vaccination, and seek your agreement to confirm your COVID-19 vaccination status.

What information will my aged care facility collect and report?

The information your aged care facility will collect is very similar to the way they currently record information on the number of residents and workers who received an influenza vaccination.

Your aged care facility will provide the following information to the Department of Health:

- total number of residents and workers, and of those

- the number of residents and workers who have received a single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and
- the number of residents and workers who have received all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The information your aged care facility reports will not identify any individual.

Do I need to show any evidence of my COVID-19 vaccination?

Your aged care facility will discuss with you how they will record your COVID-19 vaccination status, and you are encouraged to provide evidence of your vaccination status.

The evidence you can choose to provide includes:

- a vaccination certificate or other evidence from a vaccine provider, or
- an immunisation history statement which you can access from Medicare online or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

You can also provide a signed declaration, a statement of your vaccination history which you can request from the Australian Immunisation Register, or a record from a health practitioner.

Where can I get information to help me decide about getting a COVID-19 vaccination?

A fact sheet is available for residents and their families which provides information about COVID-19 vaccines. There is also a wide range of information available on the health.gov.au website in 63 languages.

You can also choose to talk to a health professional about the benefits and risks of vaccination.

For the latest information please visit www.health.gov.au