



Australian Government
Department of Health

For the attention of:
Managers and Clinical Leads
Residential Aged Care Facilities

27 April 2021

**COVID-19 VACCINATION INFORMATION FOR
WORKERS IN RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE**

I'm writing to provide you with an important update on COVID-19 vaccinations for the residential aged care workforce.

Firstly, I'd like to thank you and your workers for your patience while we updated the planned rollout for aged care workers to align with recent medical advice recommending a preference for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people aged under 50.

I'm pleased to now inform you on the revised vaccination pathways for residential aged care workers as agreed at the National Cabinet meeting on 22 April 2021.

As is the case with all Australians, workers in residential aged care will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine depending on their age, in line with the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommendations:

- **People aged 50 years and over** will receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, and
- **People aged under 50 years** will receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Please note that residential aged care workers include anyone responsible for resident care, support and services, as well as maintenance and administration. This includes:

- nursing and personal care staff
- allied health professionals
- students on placement, and
- kitchen, cleaning, laundry, garden and office staff.

It's important that residential aged care workers take proof of age identification and proof of employment to their vaccination appointment. See the enclosed factsheet for residential aged care workers for more information.

How workers in residential aged care can get a COVID-19 vaccination

1. GP options for aged care workers aged 50 and over

Available now: Residential aged care workers 50 years and over can access an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine now by visiting a GP clinic, GP respiratory clinic or Aboriginal Community Controlled

Health Service. Your workers can book with participating clinics directly through the [eligibility checker](#) on the Department of Health website.

2. State and territory vaccination clinics for residential aged care workers (Pfizer for workers aged under 50 and AstraZeneca for workers aged 50 and over)

State and Territory clinics are coming on line progressively: As you may be aware, states and territories are also running public COVID-19 vaccination clinics for eligible Australians. These clinics will offer both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to workers depending on their age, in line with the recent recommendations by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

We encourage your facilities to stay up to date with the vaccination clinics in your area and to keep your workers informed of locations. Details for the different state and territory clinics will be included in the [eligibility checker](#).

Arrangements for different states and territories clinics are happening progressively:

ACT: clinic details to be published on the [eligibility checker](#) on 3 May

NSW: your Local Health District will contact your facility directly to advise arrangements

NT: details to be advised shortly

QLD: clinic details to be published on the [eligibility checker](#) on 3 May

SA: clinic details to be published on the [eligibility checker](#) on 3 May

TAS: clinic details to be published on the [eligibility checker](#) on 3 May

VIC: details to be advised shortly

WA: details to be advised shortly.

If people can't find details for clinics nearby, they are encouraged to regularly check as listings will be updated as more clinics are open.

3. Dedicated ('pop-up') Pfizer vaccination clinics for workers aged under 50

Clinics commencing from 3 May: Residential aged care and disability workers aged under 50 years will be able to book an appointment at Commonwealth-run vaccination clinics offering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

These clinics will be operated by Sonic HealthCare and are restricted to residential aged care and disability workers only. The first clinics will open in Sydney from 3 May, with a rollout across other locations nationally in the coming weeks.

The Department will contact your facility to let you know when one of these vaccination clinics is planned in your area so you can inform your workers, and the full details will be published on the [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au) website.

4. On-site vaccination clinics for all workers at your residential aged care facility

Available now for RACFs that wish to participate: As you may be aware, there is a Request for Tender (RFT) open to residential aged care facilities wishing to vaccinate their own staff.

This RFT has been updated to allow facilities to administer both the Pfizer for workers aged under 50 and/or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for workers aged 50 and over, in line with the recent ATAGI recommendations.

The RFT process has been simplified based on feedback from facilities that the process was overly complex and time-consuming.

An addendum to the RFT is now available on the [AusTender website](#). We encourage all interested facilities to review the revised RFT to determine if vaccinating your own workforce is a viable option.

GPs that are running their own AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination clinics can also run clinics at your facility at your request for aged care workers aged 50 years and over.

Primary Health Networks will coordinate visits between GP's and residential aged care facilities if required.

It's very important that your facility and/or the GP notify any planned vaccination clinics for aged care workers over 50 with your PHN.

Resources for your workers

It's normal to have questions about the new COVID-19 vaccines and to possibly feel hesitant about getting the vaccine. It's important that your workers have the information they need to make an informed decision about the COVID-19 vaccines.

Enclosed with this letter are a range of resources to support your workforce to understand the COVID-19 vaccines available and how and where they will be able to access.

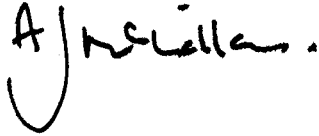
This includes:

- a factsheet and infographic to be provided to all of your workforce explaining how they can get vaccinated
- an eligibility declaration form for workers to take to their vaccination appointment (produced at the request of some residential aged care facilities to provide to their workers).

The vaccination of aged care residents and those who care for them is the most effective protection against COVID-19. Your facilities play a critical role in helping us promote and encourage COVID-19 vaccinations with your workers.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact your Primary Health Network in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison J McMillan'.

Alison J McMillan
Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer

- Attachment 1 Factsheet for all workers in residential aged care
- Attachment 2 Infographic for all workers in residential aged care
- Attachment 3 Proof of employment form
- Attachment 4 Communications materials for your internal communications
- Attachment 5 Poster for display in your workplace