



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

### Why is my residential aged care employer asking me if I have received a 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.

From 17 September 2021, it will be mandatory for all residential aged care workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. It will be a condition of employment to have received a minimum first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine for all people who work in a residential aged care facility.

Residential aged care providers are required to provide weekly reports through My Aged Care on the:

- total number of workers and residents at each residential aged care service, and of those
- the number of workers and residents at each service who have received a single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
- the numbers of workers and residents at each service who have received all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

#### What information will my workplace collect and report?

The reporting on COVID-19 vaccination of workers is very similar to the way your employer currently records information on the number of workers who have received an influenza vaccination.

The information reported through My Aged Care is on the numbers of workers and residents in the service, and numbers of those who have received a single dose only, or all required doses, of a COVID-19 vaccine. The information your workplace reports will not identify any individual.

Reporting for workers includes all people (including volunteers) working at a residential aged care facility who are responsible for resident care, support and services for residents, and maintenance and administration. This includes nursing and personal care staff, allied health professionals, administration staff, kitchen, cleaning, laundry and garden staff.

#### Do I have to let my employer know if I have received a COVID-19 vaccination?

You are strongly encouraged to advise your employer now of your COVID-19 vaccination status because it will:

- ensure your aged care facility can prepare for an outbreak and ensure the ongoing safety of its residents and staff, and
- enable your aged care facility to support you to get vaccinated before it is a condition of employment from 17 September 2021.

Your employer is expected to have a respectful conversation with you now to:

- explain why they are seeking information about COVID-19 vaccinations among workers
- explain it is your choice to get a COVID-19 vaccination until it becomes mandatory
- ensure you understand your privacy will be protected, and
- ensure you are aware of your right to refuse to provide this information until it becomes mandatory.

If you work at a residential aged care facility in South Australia, you are already required to tell your employer of your vaccination status, unless you were vaccinated at an on-site clinic at your facility.

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

You are strongly encouraged to before it is a mandatory requirement from 17 September 2021. Your employer will discuss with you how they can support you to get a COVID-19 vaccination and how they will record your vaccination status.

If you work at a residential aged care facility in South Australia, you are already required to provide evidence of your vaccination status, unless you were vaccinated at an on-site clinic at your facility.

Evidence of your COVID-19 vaccination can include:

- 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 which explains where you can get a COVID-19 vaccination.

Your facility has also received a range of [information and materials to support workers](#) in making a decision about getting a COVID-19 vaccination. This includes information translated into [19 languages](#).

It is important to access trusted, reliable information on COVID-19 vaccines, why vaccination is important and how to access a vaccination. It is recommended that you regularly visit the [health.gov.au](http://health.gov.au) website for the latest information on COVID-19 in Australia.

#### **For more information:**

Contact the Department of Health via email: [AgedCareCOVID-19Vaccine@Health.gov.au](mailto:AgedCareCOVID-19Vaccine@Health.gov.au) or contact your union for advice and support.