



Australian Government

Prioritising Residential Aged Care



What to expect on COVID-19 booster vaccination day at your residential aged care facility

Information current as at 28 October 2021

Information for residents, families, carers and loved ones

The Australian Government is delivering an in-reach COVID-19 booster vaccination program for residential aged care. The program will offer a booster dose to:

- all residents in aged care facilities who received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago, and
- all workers who received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago.

Your residential aged care facility will let you know the date of your booster vaccination day.

This document gives you, your family, carers and loved one's information about what you can expect in the lead up to, and on your booster vaccination day.

Before vaccination day

- All residential aged care facilities will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine booster clinic delivered by Commonwealth vaccine providers to administer the booster vaccine to eligible residents and staff. These vaccine providers will work closely with your facility in the lead up to booster clinic to ensure the vaccination day runs safely and efficiently.
- Facilities can choose to self-administer COVID-19 vaccine boosters, request a GP primary care provider to conduct an on-site booster clinic or accept the offer from the Commonwealth to deliver an in-reach booster clinic.
- People who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are fully vaccinated. This means they are very well protected against serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.
- A booster dose will however boost a person's immune response and provide an additional layer of protection to further reduce the risk of breakthrough infection (when a fully vaccinated person gets COVID-19 and is at risk of transmitting the virus to others).

Your residential aged care facility will ask you and your substitute decision maker (if one is in place) to consent to receiving the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

- You will be eligible to receive a booster dose if you have completed your primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine (i.e. two doses of the same vaccine).
- Information is available to you so you can make an informed decision about COVID-19 booster vaccination. If you haven't already been provided with this information by your facility, you can find a copy on the [Department of Health's website](#).
- Before giving consent, you, your family, carers and decision makers can also choose to engage with clinical staff at your facility, a GP or other health professional to discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination, and whether it is suitable for you to receive the COVID-19 booster vaccine.
- Clinical staff at your facility will check your health to make sure it is suitable for you to receive the booster vaccine. If your facility has any concerns about your health, they will consult a GP. You can also choose to talk to your GP at any time about your health and COVID-19 vaccination.
- If you consent to receiving the COVID-19 booster vaccine, your facility will manage all the arrangements for the vaccination day with the vaccine provider.
- You have the right to access an aged care advocate. This service through OPAN is free, confidential and independent of the government and aged care providers. Aged Care Advocates in your state or territory are available on 1800 700 600 or at opan.com.au

On the day of vaccination

- If you intend to receive the booster vaccine, clinical staff at your facility will check to make sure you are well on the day. If you develop a medical issue on the day of the booster vaccination, your residential aged care facility may consult with a GP to determine whether your vaccination can go ahead, or if it needs to be delayed until a later date.
- You may choose to have a support person come to your residential aged care facility on the day of the booster vaccination clinic to help and support you. This could include someone to translate information or provide reassurance if you feel concerned.
- As with any vaccine, you may have some side effects after receiving a COVID-19 booster vaccine. Information about what to expect after your vaccination will be given to you by the clinical worker administering your vaccine. This information is also available on the [Department of Health's website](#).
- After your vaccination, staff at your residential aged care facility will be monitoring you closely. If you feel unwell after receiving your vaccine make sure you let them know.

Keep up to date with trusted information

You can find more information, including translated information on the Department of Health's [COVID-19 vaccines website](#). You can also subscribe to receive [COVID-19 vaccines updates](#).

You can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080 and ask for an interpreter if needed.

The [Older Persons Advocacy Network \(OPAN\)](#) is available if you want to talk about any issues or concerns you have in relation to COVID-19 or if you need help engaging with your aged care provider. Call 1800 237 981, 6am-10pm (AEDT), 7 days a week or email covid@opan.com.au.