



COVID-19 vaccination information for residents of aged care homes

Information current as at 23 April 2024

Residents in aged care homes are strongly encouraged to continue to receive COVID-19 vaccinations to protect yourself from COVID-19. Older age continues to be the biggest risk factor for severe COVID-19.

You are eligible for a dose every 6 months if you are:

- aged 65 years and over; or
- aged 18 to 64 years and severely immunocompromised.

Those aged 75 years and over are recommended to receive a dose every 6 months. All other adults are eligible to get a dose every 12 months.

The protection offered by COVID-19 vaccines reduce over time. Regular COVID-19 vaccinations will strengthen your immune system and reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

The COVID-19 vaccines can be administered on the same day as the annual influenza vaccine.

If you have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, ask your residential aged care home to arrange your vaccination as soon as possible.

How to get the recommended vaccine

Your home is responsible for ensuring you have access to the recommended COVID-19 vaccine dose as soon as you are eligible.

Your home can arrange for you to get vaccinated by a visiting GP, pharmacist or another primary care vaccination provider as soon as you are eligible.

Providing consent

All residential aged care residents must provide valid consent before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Your home is responsible for obtaining your consent to be vaccinated.

Aged care providers keep a record of a resident's consent to share with those who administer the vaccine for recording on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

The staff at your home will discuss with you, your guardian or substitute decision maker, whether you consent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine and they will assist you to complete a consent form.

Consent by a guardian or substitute decision-maker

In some cases, a guardian or substitute decision maker will be responsible for consenting to vaccination on behalf of a resident in aged care.

Some states and territories have specific requirements relevant to guardians or substitute decision makers who are consenting on behalf of another person. If consenting to COVID-19 vaccination on behalf of a resident living in an aged care home, please refer to the enduring guardianship legislation in your state or territory.

Side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine

Common, mild side effects of COVID-19 vaccinations include a headache or mild fever and generally do not last more than 24 hours.

If you have any concerns, please speak with your GP or other health professional.

Types of vaccine

All vaccines available in Australia have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) following a rigorous evaluation process.

Your vaccine provider can discuss the vaccine options available to you.

For more information visit the Department of Health and Aged Care webpage for [residents in aged care](#).

Let's change aged care together

We invite Australians to continue to have their say about the aged care reforms.



Visit agedcareengagement.health.gov.au



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