



COVID-19 vaccination information for residents of aged care homes

Information current as of September 2025.

Residents in aged care homes are encouraged to receive their recommended COVID-19 vaccinations to protect themselves from serious illness. Older age remains the biggest risk factor for severe outcomes from COVID-19.

- **Adults aged 75 and over** should receive a COVID-19 vaccine every **6 months**.
- **Adults aged 65 to 74** are recommended a dose every **12 months**.
- **Adults aged 18 to 64 with severe immunocompromise** are also recommended a dose every **12 months**.

Vaccine protection decreases over time, so regular doses help boost your immune system and lower the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation or death.

COVID-19 vaccines can be given on the same day as the annual flu vaccine.

If you haven't received a COVID-19 vaccine at the recommended time, please ask your aged care home to arrange your vaccination as soon as possible.

How to get the recommended vaccine

Your aged care home is responsible for making sure you can get your recommended COVID-19 vaccine dose as soon as you're eligible.

They can arrange for a visiting GP, pharmacist, or another primary care provider to come to the home and give you the vaccine. You can have the COVID-19 vaccine even if you've recently had COVID-19.

Providing consent

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

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

Aged care providers share residents' consent with the health professional who gives the vaccine, so it can be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). Learn more about: [current vaccination recommendations](#) and [consent](#).

The staff at your home will discuss with you, your guardian or substitute decision maker, whether you consent to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. 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 may need to provide consent for a resident in aged care to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

Each state and territory in Australia have its own laws and requirements for guardianship and substitute decision-making. If you are consenting on behalf of a resident, please refer to the enduring guardianship legislation in your state or territory to ensure the consent is valid and meets legal requirements.

The aged care home will provide information about the vaccine to support informed decision-making. Guardians are encouraged to consider the resident's known wishes, medical advice, and the risks and benefits of vaccination when making their decision.

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, Disability and Ageing's webpage for [residents in aged care](#).