



Update for staff in residential aged care

Information current as at 30 March 2021

The purpose of this fact sheet is to update residential aged care staff on how to access a COVID-19 vaccination.

Residential aged care facility residents and staff are priority groups to receive a COVID-19 vaccination under phase 1a of Australia's national COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

Aged care residents are receiving the COVID-19 vaccination first as they are the most vulnerable to the impacts of COVID-19.

As the rollout gains momentum, staff of residential aged care facilities will begin to access their COVID-19 vaccination.

When and how can residential aged care staff access a COVID-19 vaccination?

Our priority is to deliver choice and flexibility for aged care staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccination as quickly as possible in the safest way.

You will be able to access a COVID-19 vaccination through:

- **GP respiratory Clinics.** Aged care workers can book an appointment now at the nearest [clinic](#).
- **GP clinics** through the online [Vaccine Information and Location Service](#) or directly through a participating GP clinic. Bookings can be made now subject to availability.
- **Dedicated aged care worker clinics** for residential aged care staff. Aged care workers will be able to book an appointment. Details on the first of the pop-up locations and booking arrangements will be made available in early April 2021. More pop up locations will follow.
- **Dedicated and Government approved in-reach vaccination clinics** at some residential aged care facilities. Your residential aged care facility will be able to let you know if an in-reach clinic will be available.

Which aged care staff are eligible under phase 1a?

Phase 1a eligibility includes all people working at a residential aged care facility who are responsible for residential care, support and services for residents, maintenance and administration. This includes:

- Nursing and personal care staff
- Allied health professions including GPs, and
- Kitchen, cleaning, laundry, garden and office staff.

Read more about [aged care staff eligibility](#)

Why are residents and staff not being vaccinated together?

Medical advice is to not vaccinate residents and large numbers of staff in aged care at the same time.

This is to reduce the risk of staffing shortfalls in residential aged care due to possible mild side effects post-vaccination.

Why aren't there in-reach vaccination clinics for staff at all residential aged care facilities?

We are prioritising our in-reach teams to focus on delivering the vaccine to residents first.

Some residential aged care providers may choose to partner with the Department of Health to deliver vaccines on-site for their staff. In-reach vaccination clinics may also be provided where staff can't access the vaccine through other pathways.

Why did phase 1b start before aged care staff received their COVID-19 vaccination?

The priority is to make COVID-19 vaccinations available to all Australians as safely and efficiently as possible.

Both phase 1a and 1b of the national COVID-19 vaccination program will roll out in parallel as more vaccine doses become available.

Phase 1a recognises the priority groups at most risk.

This includes residents and staff in residential aged care and disability settings, as well as hotel quarantine workers and frontline hospital staff.

Under phase 1a, these groups can access a COVID-19 vaccination through pathways that are not available to the rest of the community.

In residential aged care:

- **dedicated teams** are delivering COVID-19 vaccination clinics for residents across Australia, and
- **dedicated aged care worker clinics** and in-reach vaccination clinics at some residential aged care facilities will deliver COVID-19 vaccinations for staff.

However, residential aged care staff may choose to access a COVID-19 vaccination through a GP Respiratory Clinic or GP Clinic as part of the phase 1b rollout, if that is more convenient.

For more information:

Watch the COVID-19 Vaccine Aged Care Rollout [webinar](#)

Visit the Department of Health's [website](#)