

**Q&A – #ProudToProtect HOME CARE AND CHSP WORKER VACCINATION
WEBINAR THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2021**

#ProudToProtect webinar Q&A

Who does mandatory vaccination apply to under public health orders?

<p>Does the mandatory vaccination of in-home and community aged care workers include office-based staff?</p>	<p>In all jurisdictions, there is now a public health order/direction in place mandating vaccination for in-home and community aged care workers. The orders vary when on which staff are subject to mandatory vaccination.</p> <p>A quick guide as to who is included can be found at HC/CHSP vaccine public health orders</p> <p>If you need to clarify the requirements, LASA/ACSA members should contact your state manager.</p> <p>Non-members should email health@lasa.asn.au</p> <p>You can find all the PHOs at the Department of Health Mandatory Vaccination page as well as the FAQs prepared by each of the states/territories.</p>
<p>My understanding was that for NSW the PHO stated only mandatory vaccination for client-facing roles, and not office staff. Is this correct?</p>	<p>All aged care workers are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated to protect themselves and their loved ones against COVID-19.</p> <p>In NSW, workers who provide a Commonwealth-funded aged care service, either face to face or virtually, are in scope for mandatory vaccination under the state’s public health order.</p> <p>The public health order does not included office-based roles, such as accountants and administrative staff, but does capture meal deliverers and lawn mowers, for example.</p>

Are in-home and community aged care clients required to be vaccinated?

<p>Will there be direction for older people/clients to be vaccinated? We have vaccinated staff raising concerns.</p>	<p>While strongly encouraged for all eligible Australians, it remains an individual’s choice to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.</p>
<p>Are CHSP service providers supposed to ask clients for a copy of their vaccination</p>	<p>While strongly encouraged for all eligible Australians, it remains an individual’s choice to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>You are not required to ask clients for a copy of their vaccination certificate.</p>

certificate to keep on their file?	
What is your advice on cases where clients are not vaccinated or are refusing to disclose their vaccination status and community support workers are not feeling comfortable to provide services.	<p>Vaccination is only one measure to help stop the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>All aged care workers should employ COVID-safe practices, including physical distancing where possible, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment and practicing good hand hygiene, to keep themselves and those they care for safe.</p>
When do you expect to provide us with guidance on what to do when clients/family members are not vaccinated and not planning to either in relation to service providers' responsibility to provide in home services?	<p>All aged care workers should employ COVID-safe practices, including physical distancing where possible, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, and practicing good hand hygiene, to keep themselves and those they care for safe.</p> <p>While strongly encouraged for all eligible Australians, it remains an individual's choice to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>Vaccination is only one measure to help stop the spread of COVID-19.</p>

How can workers or volunteers prove their vaccination?

Some of our staff and volunteers are struggling to provide evidence that they have been vaccinated. How do they do this and is there an alternative approach if they are still waiting for their evidence to appear on the Immunisation Register?	<p>There are two ways workers and volunteers can provide evidence of their vaccination status:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immunisation History Statement – this displays all vaccinations or medical contraindications and authorised exemptions, including COVID-19, that have been reported to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). All vaccine providers must upload vaccinations to the AIR. 2. COVID-19 Digital Certificate – this is for individuals who have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in Australia. <p>People can access their Immunisation History Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online, by setting up a myGov account and then accessing a Medicare online account; or • through the Express Plus Medicare mobile app; or • by calling the Australian Immunisation Register enquiries line on 1800 653 809 (8am-5pm, Monday to Friday AEST) and asking them to send a
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	<p>copy of the statement. Please allow up to 14 days to receive the statement in the post; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by asking a GP or vaccination provider to print a copy of your statement for you. <p>People do not need to have a Medicare card to be able to access their Immunisation History Statement.</p> <p>Fact sheets are available for how residential aged care workers and in-home and community aged care workers can prove their COVID-19 vaccination status, including step-by-step guides on how to create a myGov account.</p> <p>If a worker is unable to get a copy of their Immunisation History Statement, they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advise their employer where and when they received their COVID-19 vaccination, and • provide proof of their vaccination appointment or a signed declaration that they have received a minimum first dose. <p>If workers cannot access proof of vaccination, providers should record the worker as being vaccinated and follow up to ensure they provide the required proof of vaccination. Providers should help workers obtain a COVID-19 Digital Certificate or Immunisation History statement if they need assistance.</p> <p>Each of the public health orders indicate the obligations on providers to determine the vaccination status of those who work directly or via sub-contracting arrangements.</p> <p>The public health orders do differ in the degree of information a provider might need to sight or hold.</p> <p>Aged care providers should be familiar with the public health order relevant to their operations, to ensure you are meeting your obligations in relation to record keeping.</p>
<p>Is it possible for aged care providers to have access to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) as most of the aged care clients do not have a my gov account?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, there is no 'organisation' level access to the AIR.</p> <p>The Services Australia website has a range of information to help Australians, including businesses and community organisations, get proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australians can get help at Getting help during coronavirus (COVID-19) - How to get proof - Services Australia • Businesses and community organisations can get help at Proof of COVID-19 vaccination resources for community groups - Services Australia <p>The website includes tailored guidance for Australians to set up their online accounts, and access and store vaccination proof.</p>

	<p>People can call the Australian Immunisation Register on 1800 653 809 to request a copy of their immunisation history statement, which can take 14 days to arrive in the mail.</p>
<p>Is it the provider's responsibility to verify the vaccination status of contractors and sub-contractors?</p>	<p>Each of the public health orders indicate the obligations providers have to determine the vaccination status of those who work directly or via sub-contracting arrangements.</p> <p>The public health orders do differ in the degree of information a provider might need to sight or hold.</p>
<p>Does the Dept have a view on what constitutes 'evidence of vaccination'? Are we required to hold certificates on file, or sight them, or can we e.g. get a stat dec from subcontractors that assures us they are monitoring?</p>	<p>Each of the public health orders indicate the obligations on providers to determine the vaccination status of those who work directly or via sub-contracting arrangements.</p> <p>These do differ in the degree of information a provider might need to sight or hold.</p> <p>Aged care providers should be familiar with the public health order relevant to their operations, to ensure you are meeting your obligations in relation to record keeping.</p>
<p>Is there any particular way or format we should be collecting evidence of workers' COVID-19 vaccinations?</p>	<p>This is an internal process matter for each provider under relevant public health orders.</p> <p>Each of the public health orders set out specific requirements in relation to collecting and recording proof of workers' vaccination status.</p> <p>The public health orders do differ in the degree of information a provider might need to sight or hold.</p> <p>Aged care providers should be familiar with the public health order relevant to their operations, to ensure you are meeting your obligations in relation to record keeping.</p>
<p>Can I request the Support Workers to provide evidence of vaccine?</p>	<p>Each of the public health orders set out specific requirements in relation to collecting and recording proof of workers' vaccination status.</p> <p>The public health orders do differ in the degree of information an aged care provider might need to sight or hold.</p> <p>Aged care providers should be familiar with the public health order relevant to their operations, to ensure you are meeting your obligations in relation to record keeping.</p>

What grant opportunities are available?

<p>Which grants are available?</p>	<p>Two grants are available to support providers support their workers to get vaccinated and also for providers to meet their reporting requirements:</p> <p>Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) – Emergency Support for COVID-19 (GO3877)</p> <p>https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=6c903322-0521-8405-245c-dd56c93b7960&keyword=GO3877</p> <p>Home Care Packages Program (HCP) COVID-19 Vaccination Support (GO5216)</p> <p>https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=82532c0a-c503-43d4-9d35-656e3571609e&keyword=GO5216</p>														
<p>What were the client numbers vs the grant values?</p>	<p>For the Home Care Packages Program (HCP) COVID-19 Vaccination Support Grant, funding is capped based on the total number of HCP care recipients in care as at 5 November 2021.</p> <table data-bbox="467 784 877 1176"> <tr> <td>1-4 care recipients</td> <td>\$5,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-25 care recipients</td> <td>\$20,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26-100 care recipients</td> <td>\$27,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101-300 care recipients</td> <td>\$30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>301-500 care recipients</td> <td>\$35,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>500-1000 care recipients</td> <td>\$42,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Over 1000 care recipients</td> <td>\$48,000</td> </tr> </table> <p>More information can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=82532c0a-c503-43d4-9d35-656e3571609e&keyword=GO5216</p> <p>Client numbers don't have a direct impact on grant values for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) – Emergency Support for COVID-19 Grant.</p>	1-4 care recipients	\$5,000	5-25 care recipients	\$20,000	26-100 care recipients	\$27,000	101-300 care recipients	\$30,000	301-500 care recipients	\$35,000	500-1000 care recipients	\$42,500	Over 1000 care recipients	\$48,000
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<p>For funding under GO5216, does it have to be extra costs due to reporting? For example, if we allocate the reporting job to different existing employees (no extra employment costs), can we apply the funding GO5216?</p>	<p>Eligible activities must directly relate to the grant opportunity for the Home Care Package workforce and may include staffing costs and improving quality of reported COVID-19 vaccination data. This includes minimising double-counting of staff across care types, jurisdictions, or through sub-contracting arrangements for the HCP workforce.</p> <p>There is no issue with using the grant to cover existing employees to do this additional work – however, providers may wish to consider what is not being delivered in lieu of the time needed each week to report the vaccination status of their workforce and use the grant as an opportunity to limit impacts on their usual operations.</p>														

<p>Can CHSP funds from undelivered hours be used for this purpose or only through this grant process?</p>	<p>Unspent CHSP funds can be used to support providers with their vaccination reporting and incentives for workforce COVID-19 vaccination. CHSP providers can also apply for additional funds under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) – Emergency Support for COVID-19 Grant (GO3877). Funding is available in 2021-22 and applications are open until 30 June 2022.</p>
<p>What's the processing time for application reviews? and subsequent payment time frame?</p>	<p>For Home Care Packages Program (HCP) COVID-19 Vaccination Support Grant (GO5216):</p> <p>Applications will be approved in batches.</p> <p>All approved applications received by 2PM AEDT Thursday 18 November 2021 have received a letter of agreement.</p> <p>All approved applications received by 2PM AEDT Thursday 6 January 2022 will receive a letter of agreement in January 2022.</p> <p>All approved applications received by the closing date will receive a letter of agreement in mid-February 2022.</p> <p>More information can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines: GrantConnect https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=82532c0a-c503-43d4-9d35-656e3571609e&keyword=GO5216</p> <p>For Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) – Emergency Support for COVID-19 Grant (GO3877):</p> <p>CHSP providers can apply for funding via GrantsConnect under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP) – Emergency Support for COVID-19 Grant (GO3877) until 30 June 2022.</p> <p>The timeframe from submission of an application to the funding offer is four to seven weeks, depending on the complexity of the application. Providers are encouraged to contact their Funding Arrangement Manager in the Community Grants Hub for further information.</p> <p>More information can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines: https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=6c903322-0521-8405-245c-dd56c93b7960&keyword=GO3877</p>
<p>Under the HCP grant, is it possible to apply for retrospective costs and future costs to collect data?</p>	<p>Providers can use the Home Care Packages Program (HCP) COVID-19 Vaccination Support Grant on eligible expenses incurred from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.</p> <p>More information can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines on GrantConnect https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=82532c0a-c503-43d4-9d35-656e3571609e&keyword=GO5216</p>
<p>Is there a closing date for the applications?</p>	<p>www.grants.gov.au</p> <p>The Commonwealth Home Support Programme – Emergency Support for COVID-19 Grant (GO3877) closes on 30 June 2022</p>

	The Home Care Packages COVID-19 Vaccination Support Grant (GO5216) closes on 28 January 2022 at 2pm AEDT.
What are the key supporting documents required for the application?	<p>There are no documents required when applying for the Home Care Packages COVID-19 Vaccination Support Grant. However, evidence should be kept to support the use of grant funding in accordance with the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.</p> <p>More information can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines GrantConnect https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=82532c0a-c503-43d4-9d35-656e3571609e&keyword=GO5216</p> <p>Under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme – Emergency Support for COVID-19 Grant, CHSP providers submit an online application form and complete the funding application questions and information in the online form. Where necessary, the Department will reach out to applicants for further information to support its analysis.</p> <p>More information can be found in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines: https://www.grants.gov.au/Go/Show?GoUuid=6c903322-0521-8405-245c-dd56c93b7960&keyword=GO3877</p>
Reporting requirements	
What is the requirement for collecting/keeping records of boosters? Do we need to keep actual evidence of boosters?	Reporting of workers' booster doses is not mandatory. Workers may disclose that they have received a booster dose, which can be recorded by you and reported via My Aged Care in the same way you record and report first and second doses. From 4 January 2022, residential aged care providers are required to report on booster doses received by residents.
How frequently do providers need to report to My Aged Care?	Providers must continue to report weekly each Tuesday in 2022. Providers do not need to update their My Aged Care data if there is no change to your last report.
Is there any sense of how long weekly reporting is likely to continue?	Given the mandatory vaccination requirements in place in each state and territory, weekly reporting will continue for the foreseeable future.

Link to recording of the webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwmSdPmvpAE>