



Australian Government



Prioritising Residential Aged Care

# COVID-19 vaccine policy guidance

Information current as at 4 February 2022

This document provides policy guidance on the administration of COVID-19 vaccines at in-reach vaccination clinics at residential aged care facilities.

The Pfizer (Comirnaty) COVID-19 vaccine is used by vaccine providers who administer vaccinations at residential aged care facilities.

## Doses policy for in-reach vaccination clinics

Vaccine providers conducting in-reach vaccination clinics will administer vaccinations to anyone in a residential aged care facility who is eligible for a booster vaccine or otherwise requires a vaccine.

COVID-19 booster dose vaccines are available to:

- all residents in aged care facilities who received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least three months ago, regardless of where they were vaccinated, and
- all residential aged care workers who received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least three months ago, regardless of where they were vaccinated.

People are eligible to receive a booster vaccine if they received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least three months prior.

Residents and workers who are eligible for a booster vaccine may have received their first and second doses through any available vaccine channel.

In addition to providing booster vaccines, vaccine providers should offer a vaccination to:

- residents who require a first or second dose
- workers who require a first or second dose
- residents and workers who require a second dose where the recommended six-week interval has been exceeded

- residents or workers who require a third dose because they have been assessed by their health practitioner as being severely immunocompromised. The delivery of a third dose should only occur where there is clear advice from a clinician that the person meets [ATAGI requirements](#).

The COVID-19 vaccine booster in-reach clinics will only be for residents and workers who are eligible at the time. This can include visiting GPs or other allied health professionals.

Every aged care resident present for the in-reach clinic can access the vaccination they require, including respite residents.

Aged care workers in scope for a vaccine are all staff (including volunteers engaged by the service) who access, or are reasonably likely to access, any premises where the operation or administration of the service occurs.

This includes staff and volunteers providing direct care to residents, as well as those working in administration onsite at a facility or not directly in contact, such as chefs and gardeners. Students on placement can also receive a vaccine.

Other individuals at the facility may be offered an excess dose vaccine where they are available. Where there are no additional people available in a residential aged care facility to vaccinate and there are excess vials remaining, vaccine workforce providers are to refer to the vial re-direction process.

### **Alternate access to COVID-19 vaccines**

- Where residents or workers are unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccination through a vaccination provider: Primary Health Networks can facilitate access to local vaccination channels, including potential in-reach services by primary care providers. Facilities can organise a visiting GP or pharmacist to provide booster doses to any resident that is eligible ahead of a facility's booster clinic. Facilities do not need to wait for scheduled booster clinic to organise a booster dose for residents that are already eligible.
- New entrants to residential aged care facilities are strongly recommended to have received all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine prior to taking up residence.

**For more information visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)**