



Australian Government



Prioritising Residential Aged Care

Scope of vaccine services for the residential aged care booster program

Information current as at 4 February 2022

Through the Australian Government's national COVID-19 vaccine booster program for residential aged care, all facilities have been offered a booster clinic for all eligible residents and workers.

Everyone is eligible for a booster who received a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least three months prior.

People who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are very well protected against serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

A booster dose will boost a person's immune response and provide an additional layer of protection to further reduce the risk of breakthrough infection (when a fully vaccinated person gets COVID-19 and is at risk of transmitting the virus to others).

This document provides policy guidance on the scope of vaccinations delivered at booster clinics, how clinics will be notionally scheduled and other vaccination services in place for aged care.

Booster vaccination in-reach clinics

The national COVID-19 vaccine booster program in residential aged care is offering a booster dose to all residents and workers who are eligible, regardless of where they were vaccinated, and what vaccine they received.

These residents and workers will be offered a COVID-19 booster dose through Commonwealth in-reach clinics, like the clinics that delivered the initial first and second dose clinics for residents.

Facilities can also choose to request a primary care provider to conduct an on-site booster clinic or use their own qualified nursing staff, or a third party, to self-manage their own on-site booster clinic.

Each residential aged care facility across Australia has been allocated to a Commonwealth vaccine provider for delivery of an in-reach clinic to administer COVID-19 vaccine boosters to all residents and workers who completed their primary course (two doses) at least three months ago. Residents and workers can receive a booster vaccine if their three-month period since receiving a second dose falls within two weeks of the scheduled booster clinic.

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.

Primary care providers (GPs, CVCs) may also deliver in-reach booster vaccine services in support of the main program and for residents that may be absent or unwell on the day of the booster clinic, or who are not yet eligible for a booster on the day of the clinic.

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

- residents who require a first or second dose
- workers who required 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](#).

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. This can include visiting GPs and other allied health professionals. 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.

The booster program is intended to deliver a single in-reach booster vaccine clinic for the majority of residents that are eligible. PHNs will coordinate access to local vaccine services to supplement the in-reach program where needed.

Consistent with information published on the [mandatory vaccination of aged care workers](#), the term “workers” includes volunteers engaged by the residential aged care facility and students on placement.