



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# What to expect on COVID-19 Winter dose vaccination day at your residential aged care facility

Information current as at 30 March 2022

### Information for residents, families, carers and loved ones

The Australian Government is delivering an in-reach COVID-19 Winter dose program for residential aged care. The program will offer a Winter dose to:

- all residents in aged care facilities who received a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago, and
- vulnerable workers who received a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago.

Your residential aged care facility will let you know the date of your Winter dose vaccination day.

This document gives you, your family, carers and loved ones information about what you can expect in the lead up to, and on the day of vaccination.

### Before vaccination day

- All residential aged care facilities will organise for the administration of a COVID-19 Winter dose for their residents. This may be through a primary care provider, an on-site self-run clinic or through a Commonwealth in-reach program. These vaccine providers will work closely with your facility in the lead up to your vaccination day to ensure that the administration of the vaccines runs safely and efficiently.
- A Winter dose will boost a person's immune response and provide an additional layer of protection to further reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation or death.

Your residential aged care facility will ask you and your substitute decision maker (if one is in place) to consent to receiving the COVID-19 Winter dose.

- You will be eligible to receive a Winter dose if you received your booster dose more than four months ago.

- Information is available to you so you can make an informed decision about a COVID-19 Winter dose. If you haven't already been provided with this information by your facility, you can find a copy on the [Department of Health's website](#).
- Before giving consent, you, your family, carers and decision makers can also choose to engage with clinical staff at your facility, a GP or other health professional to discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination, and whether it is suitable for you to receive the COVID-19 Winter dose.
- Clinical staff at your facility will check your health to make sure it is suitable for you to receive the vaccine. If your facility has any concerns about your health, they will consult a GP. You can also choose to talk to your GP at any time about your health and COVID-19 vaccination.
- If you consent to receiving the COVID-19 Winter dose, your facility will manage all the arrangements for the vaccination day with the vaccine provider.
- You have the right to access an aged care advocate. This service through OPAN is free, confidential and independent of the government and aged care providers. Aged Care Advocates in your state or territory are available on 1800 700 600 or at [opan.com.au](http://opan.com.au).

### On the day of vaccination

- If you intend to receive the Winter dose, clinical staff at your facility will check to make sure you are well on the day. If you develop a medical issue on the day of the vaccination, your residential aged care facility may consult with a GP to determine whether your vaccination can go ahead, or if it needs to be delayed until a later date.
- You may choose to have a support person come to your residential aged care facility on the day of the vaccination clinic to help and support you. This could include someone to translate information or provide reassurance if you feel concerned.
- As with any vaccine, you may have some side effects after receiving a COVID-19 Winter dose. Information about what to expect after your vaccination will be given to you by the clinical worker administering your vaccine. This information is also available on the [Department of Health's website](#).
- After your vaccination, staff at your residential aged care facility will be monitoring you closely. If you feel unwell after receiving your vaccine make sure you let them know.

### Keep up to date with trusted information

You can find more information, including translated information on the Department of Health's [COVID-19 vaccines website](#). You can also subscribe to receive [COVID-19 vaccines updates](#).

You can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080 and ask for an interpreter if needed.

The [Older Persons Advocacy Network \(OPAN\)](#) is available if you want to talk about any issues or concerns you have in relation to COVID-19 or if you need help engaging with your aged care provider. Call 1800 237 981, 6am-10pm (AEDT), 7 days a week or email [covid@opan.com.au](mailto:covid@opan.com.au).