



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# COVID-19 booster vaccination information for residential aged care workers – are you up to date?

Information current as at 1 July 2022

As a residential aged care worker, being up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you, your co-workers and the people in your care.

Residents of aged care facilities are among the most vulnerable to severe outcomes of COVID-19. Being vaccinated will reduce the risk of transmission to residents and workers.

You are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination when you have received a booster dose at least three months after your second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The immunity created by COVID-19 vaccines begins to wane over time. A 'top up' or 'booster' dose after a primary course helps boost your immunity against COVID-19.

**A booster dose increases protection against infection, severe disease, and dying from COVID-19. It will also continue to protect you, your loved ones, your workplace and your community against COVID-19.**

Read the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) statement [on being up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations](#).

Learn about [booster doses for COVID-19 vaccines and when you need one](#).

### **Mandatory booster doses for residential aged care workers**

In some states and territories, it is mandatory for residential aged care workers to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination status.

State and territory public health orders define who must be vaccinated and by when, and limited exemptions that may apply. Stay up to date at [Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in aged care](#).

Residential aged care workers have priority access to vaccination appointments through:

- Primary care providers including GPs and community pharmacies – book now through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder](#)
- State and territory vaccination clinics
- On-site clinics – ask your employer when a vaccination clinic, or visiting primary care provider, will be on site at your workplace.

Aged care workers can also call the dedicated COVID-19 Helpline on **1800 020 080** (select option 4) for any questions about vaccination and for assistance on how to book an appointment.

## Who is eligible for a COVID-19 Winter dose

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [recommends](#) an additional COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for those most at risk from severe illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19 over the winter season.

The COVID-19 Winter vaccine dose is recommended for:

- people aged 65 years and older
- people who are severely immunocompromised
- residents of aged care and disability facilities
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older
- people aged 16 -64 years:
  - who have [a medical condition](#) that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness
  - living with a disability with significant or complex health needs or multiple comorbidities which increase risk of poor outcome from COVID-19.

Residential aged care workers who meet the above ATAGI criteria can voluntarily choose to get the COVID-19 Winter dose **from 4 months** after their initial COVID-19 booster.

If an individual has had a recent confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, they should delay their winter booster dose until 3 months after their infection.

The COVID-19 Winter dose is not mandatory, it is optional for eligible people at risk for their personal protection.

All residential aged care facilities are responsible for organising COVID-19 Winter dose vaccination of residents. Workers who are eligible to receive the additional Winter dose can also be vaccinated at these clinics for residents.

You can receive your COVID-19 Winter dose from **4 months after your booster dose** of a COVID-19 vaccine at:

- state and territory vaccination clinics
- primary care providers including GPs and community pharmacies
- your facility's on-site COVID-19 Winter dose clinics for residents and eligible workers.

For more information on the recommended COVID-19 Winter dose read [ATAGI's statement](#).

For more information visit [Information for aged care providers, workers and residents about COVID-19 vaccines | Australian Government Department of Health](#)