



## COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Information current as at 7 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 helps protect you and those in your care from COVID-19.

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.

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

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](#).

You may be required to show evidence of your COVID-19 vaccination status to your employer, as your employer is required to report their workforce COVID-19 vaccination status to the Commonwealth.

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](#)
- 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 recommended to receive an additional booster (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:

- people aged 50 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.

In addition, people aged 30- 49 years can receive an additional COVID-19 booster dose if they choose to do so.

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

Residential aged care workers who meet the above ATAGI criteria can voluntarily get the COVID-19 Winter dose **from 3 months** after your initial COVID-19 booster, or **from 3 months** after a recent COVID-19 infection if this occurred after receiving your initial booster dose.

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

### What evidence can you provide if required?

There are two options for you to provide evidence of COVID-19 vaccination in Australia:

1. A COVID-19 Digital Certificate, updated for each dose of vaccine, including booster doses.
2. An Immunisation History Statement, which displays all vaccinations or medical contraindications and authorised exemptions, including COVID-19, that have been reported to the Australian Immunisation Register.

The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is a national immunisation register which records vaccines given to all people in Australia. This includes COVID-19 vaccines, vaccines given under the National Immunisation Program, and privately, such as for seasonal influenza or travel.

### How can you access your Immunisation History Statement?

You can access your Immunisation History Statement:

- online, by setting up your own [myGov account](#) and then accessing your [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 your statement to you. Please allow up to 14 days to receive your statement in the post; or
- by asking your doctor or vaccination provider to print a copy of your statement for you.

### Proof of vaccination through your Medicare Online Account

- If you have a Medicare Card, you can access your COVID-19 Digital Certificate and/or your Immunisation History Statement via your [Medicare online account](#) through [myGov](#):
  - Sign into [www.myGov.au](#) and select **Medicare**
  - Under 'Services', select **View statement** on the **Immunisation history tile**
  - **Select your name and then select View history statement**
  - Then open the PDF
  - Your statement shows all of your vaccinations recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register
  - New vaccinations may take a few days to appear on your statement

- If you think something is missing, contact your vaccine provider and ask them to update the register
- Watch this [easy-to-follow video](#) which takes you through the above steps or visit [Medicare online account - Services Australia](#).

### **Proof of vaccination from My Health Record**

[My Health Record](#) is an online summary of your key health information. To access your My Health Record online, you need to have a myGov account and to link it to your record.

**If you do not have a Medicare card**, you can still get proof of your vaccination through My Health Record. You will need to apply for an individual healthcare identifier from Services Australia, if you don't already have one. You can do this online – [www.digitalhealth.gov.au/mhr-without-medicare-details](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/mhr-without-medicare-details).

To create your My Health Record, visit [www.myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au)

When you log into your **My Health Record**, you can get your [proof of vaccination](#) from the **record home page**.

- To get your document from the **record home page**:
  - Scroll to the Health snapshot section
  - Click Immunisation History Statement or COVID-19 digital certificate to open the PDF viewer

For more information: [www.digitalhealth.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions)

### **Add your COVID-19 digital certificate to a digital wallet**

You can get your COVID-19 digital certificate after you have had two doses approved for use in Australia and your vaccination provider has entered them on the Australian Immunisation Register.

If you have Medicare, you can add your own COVID-19 Digital Certificate to your Apple Wallet or Google Pay using either:

- the Express Plus Medicare mobile app or
- your Medicare online account through [www.myGov.au](http://www.myGov.au)

Using the [Medicare mobile app](#):

- select **Immunisation history** from Services.
  - select your **name**, then **View COVID-19 digital certificate**.
  - select either **Add to Apple Wallet** or **Save to phone** for Google Pay.
- Using the Express Plus Medicare mobile app:
    - sign into [www.myGov.au](http://www.myGov.au) using a browser on your phone and select **Medicare**.
    - select **View immunisation history** on the Immunisation history tile
    - select your **name**
    - select either **Add to Apple Wallet** or **Save to phone** for Google Pay
    - If you're using an iOS device, you can use Safari or Chrome browsers. If you're using an Android device, you need to use the Chrome browser.

### What to do if you cannot access your proof of vaccination

If you cannot access your proof of vaccination, talk to your employer. Let them know where and when you received your COVID-19 vaccinations and provide your proof of vaccination as soon as possible.

Your employer will record you as being vaccinated but will require you to provide documentation to confirm this is the case.

### Helpful websites

Getting proof of my COVID-19 vaccinations: [www.digitalhealth.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions](http://www.digitalhealth.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions)

Create a myGov account: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/online-help/create-mygov-account>

Create a Medicare online account:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/medicare-online-accounts>

Create a My Health Record: [www.myhealthrecord.gov.au](http://www.myhealthrecord.gov.au)

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