



## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# In-home and community aged care workers COVID-19 vaccination – are you up to date?

Information current as at 7 July 2022

To continue to protect senior Australians at home and in the community, it is very important for in-home and community aged care workers to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.

The expert Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends that all individuals aged 16 years and over should receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to maintain an 'up-to-date' status.

You are eligible to receive your booster dose **from 3 months** after receiving your second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. A booster dose will boost your immune response and provide an additional layer of protection to the risk of severe disease, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

In some states and territories, it is mandatory for in-home and community aged care workers to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination status. Stay up to date at [Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in aged care](#).

**You may also be required to provide evidence of your COVID-19 vaccination status to your employer.**

### Do I need a COVID-19 Winter dose to be up to date?

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 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.

ATAGI advises people aged 30 – 49 years can also receive an additional COVID-19 booster dose if they choose.

In-home and community aged care workers who meet the above ATAGI criteria can voluntarily choose to get the COVID-19 Winter dose:

- **from 3 months** after their initial COVID-19 booster, or
- **from 3 months** after a confirmed COVID-19 infection if this occurred after the initial booster dose.

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

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

### How to book your COVID-19 vaccination

In-home and community aged care workers can book a priority appointment through the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) at:

- **Primary care clinics** – including GP clinics, pharmacies, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services.

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.

### Can I get a COVID-19 and flu vaccination at the same time?

ATAGI advises it is safe to get your COVID-19 and flu vaccination together.

If you normally get your annual flu vaccination through a primary care provider, such as a GP or pharmacy, you can ask them if they can give you both vaccinations at the same appointment.

### I am severely immunocompromised and have received three doses and a booster. Should I still get the Winter vaccine dose?

Yes, it is recommended. Immunocompromised people who have received three primary doses and a booster of a COVID-19 vaccine can receive a Winter vaccine dose from 3 months after the initial booster or from 3 months after a COVID-19 infection if this occurred since the person's first COVID-19 booster dose.

### What evidence can I provide to my employer 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 I access my 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](http://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 Medicare**, 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
  - The COVID-19 digital certificate link is available once you have had all required doses of a vaccine approved for use in Australia

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 your vaccination provider has entered your COVID-19 vaccines 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 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.
- 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.

### What to do if I cannot access my 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.

### Proof of exemption from COVID-19 vaccination

Relevant [state or territory public health orders](#) on COVID-19 mandatory vaccination for in-home and community aged care will provide direction on what limited exemptions may be considered.

For more information visit your state or territory department of health website to understand what limited exemptions may apply, what exemption documentation may be required.

### 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.servicessaustralia.gov.au/individuals/online-help/create-mygov-account>

Create a Medicare online account:

<https://www.servicessaustralia.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: [COVID-19 information for in-home and community aged care workers](#).