

Volunteers and COVID-19 Vaccinations: Information Sheet (7 June 2021)

The Australian Government advises vaccination is the most effective protection against COVID-19.

New reporting requirements

On 4 June 2021, the Australian Government announced new reporting requirements for COVID-19 aged care workforce vaccinations¹ as an important measure to provide greater health security for aged care residents and senior Australians.

Aged care providers will be required to ask all of their workers whether they have received a COVID-19 vaccine, and to report this information to the Australian Government.

The information in this section comes from the following federal Department of Health documents:

- Guidance for [residential aged care providers](#) on reporting of workforce COVID-19 vaccinations
- Guidance for [in-home and community aged care providers](#) on reporting of aged care worker COVID-19 vaccinations

Residential care

- Weekly reporting will be a formal requirement for approved providers of residential aged care services starting from 15 June 2021.
- Workers means all individuals, **including** volunteers, who access, or are reasonably likely to access, any premises where the operation or administration of the service occurs (as defined in the Quality of Care Principles).

In home and community aged care

- As of 7 June, the Australian Government has said that weekly reporting will become a formal requirement for approved providers of in-home and community aged care services “in the coming weeks”.
- Workers means all individuals, **including** volunteers, who deliver aged care services to people in their homes and in the community.

COVID-19 vaccination program

The Australian COVID-19 vaccination program commenced officially on Monday 22 February 2021. The national roll-out strategy² identified priority populations who were to receive the vaccine in the earlier phases.

The information in this section comes from the following federal Department of Health documents:

- The ‘staff’ [definition](#) for Phase 1a inclusion in residential aged and disability care facilities
- A [slide deck](#) outlining Phase 1b cohorts

¹ See <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/covid-19-vaccination-new-reporting-requirements-for-aged-care>

² See <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-australias-covid-19-vaccine-national-roll-out-strategy> and <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/when-will-i-get-a-covid-19-vaccine>

How are volunteers included in the phased roll-out?

Phase 1a

- In relation to aged and disability care facilities, volunteers were **not** eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1a.
- All workers, including the many volunteers, who provide care services in a community or home setting were also **not** included in Phase 1a.

Phase 1b

- Phase 1b **includes** anyone who is working in a healthcare setting. We have been advised by the Australian Government that this includes volunteers, for example hospital and palliative care volunteers as they are in an at-risk 'workplace' setting.
- Disability and aged care support volunteers who provide support to people in their homes, respite care, educational, employment, leisure and/or residential settings, including those providing transport and advocacy services are **included** in Phase 1b (see slide 12 of the Phase 1b slide deck).
- Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service volunteers are **included** in Phase 1b (see slide 7 of the Phase 1b slide deck).

We are currently urging the Commonwealth Government to ensure that information regarding volunteering is easily accessible on the federal Department of Health website and included in the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker³.

Further information

For the latest COVID-19 vaccine updates

visit: www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines

³ <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker>