

Volunteers in national COVID-19 vaccine mandates

At the Commonwealth level, two doses of a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved COVID-19 vaccination are currently mandatory for some volunteers.

In Commonwealth funded aged care service providers delivering **residential aged care services**:

- Volunteers must have already received two doses of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine.¹

In Commonwealth funded aged care service providers delivering **in-home and community aged care services**:

- Volunteers must receive the first dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine by 30 November 2021 and a second dose by 31 December 2021.
- This mandate, as advised by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), will be implemented by the state and territory governments. The AHPPC clearly recommends that mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements **include volunteers** in-home and community aged care.²

If providing intensive supports to **National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants**.

- **Workers** must receive the first dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine by 30 November 2021 and a second dose by 31 December 2021. **This may include volunteers.**³
- This mandate, as advised by the AHPPC, will be implemented at the state and territory level. **Whether volunteers who provide intensive supports to NDIS participants are included in the vaccine mandate will be decided by state and territory governments.**

Other vaccine mandates for specific sectors or roles are included in Public Health Orders designed and implemented by the state and territory governments. **These may include volunteers.**

Information on the mandate of COVID-19 vaccines for volunteers not included in the sectors or roles outlined above should be sought from state and territory governments.

¹ <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/information-for-aged-care-providers-workers-and-residents-about-covid-19-vaccines/mandatory-covid-19-vaccination-in-aged-care>

² <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-mandatory-vaccination-of-aged-care-in-home-and-community-aged-care-workers>

³ The AHPPC recommended that COVID-19 vaccinations should be made mandatory for disability support workers providing intensive supports to NDIS participants, and that all jurisdictions accept a national definition of disability support worker and intensive supports. However, while clear that the provider's obligation applies not just in relation to workers they employ, but also to workers they "engage in other ways," **volunteers are not specified** in the definition provided. Whether volunteers are defined as workers or are otherwise specified to be included in COVID-19 vaccine mandates is decided by the state and territory governments.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-mandating-vaccination-for-disability-support-workers>