



Australian Government



What to expect on COVID-19 vaccination day at your residential aged care facility

Information for residents, families, carers and loved ones

The Australian Government has a strategy to deliver COVID-19 vaccines to everyone living in Australia.

Residential aged care workers and residents will be among the first people who can choose to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. This is part of the [first phase \(Phase 1a\) of Australia's COVID-19 vaccine national roll-out strategy](#).

COVID-19 vaccination for residential aged care workers and residents will be done at residential aged care facilities. Your residential aged care facility will let you know when your vaccination day will be.

This document gives you, your family, carers and loved ones information about what you can expect in the lead up to, and on your vaccination day.

Before vaccination day

- The Australian Government will organise for vaccines to be delivered to your residential aged care facility.
- The Australian Government has also recruited a clinical workforce who will visit your residential aged care facility and administer the vaccine to residents and staff. These clinical workers will work very closely with your facility in the lead up to vaccination day to plan and make sure the vaccination day runs safely and efficiently.
- Your residential aged care facility will ask you, and your substitute decision maker (if one is in place), to consent to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Information is available to you so you can make an informed decision about COVID-19 vaccination. If you haven't already been provided with this information by your facility, you can find a copy on the [Department of Health's website](#).
 - Before giving consent, you, your family, carers and decision makers can also choose to engage with clinical staff at your facility, a GP or other health professionals to discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination, and whether it is suitable for you to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Clinical staff at your facility will check your health to make sure it is suitable for you to receive the vaccine. If your facility has any concerns about your health they will consult a GP. You can also choose to talk to your GP at any time about your health and COVID-19 vaccination.
- If you consent to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine your residential aged care facility will register you to receive the vaccine. Your facility will manage all of the arrangements for the vaccination day with the vaccine workforce.
- The COVID vaccine does not need to be prescribed for you by your GP.
- You have the right to access an aged care advocate. This service through OPAN is free, confidential and independent of the government and aged care providers. Aged Care Advocates in your state or territory are available on 1800 700 600 or at opan.com.au.

On the day of vaccination

- If you intend to receive the vaccine, clinical staff at your facility will check to make sure you are well on vaccination day. If you develop a medical issue on the day of vaccination your residential aged care facility may consult with a GP to determine whether your vaccination can go ahead, or if it needs to be delayed until a later date.
- You may choose to have a support person come to your residential aged care facility on the vaccination day to help and support you. This could include someone to translate information or provide reassurance if you feel concerned.
- As with any vaccine, you may have some side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Information about what to expect after your vaccination will be given to you by the clinical worker administering your vaccine. This information is also available on the [Department of Health's website](#).
- After your vaccination, staff at your residential aged care facility will be monitoring you closely. If you feel unwell after receiving your vaccine make sure you let them know.

Keep up to date with trusted information

You can find more information, including translated information on the Department of Health's [COVID-19 vaccines website](#). You can also subscribe to receive [COVID-19 vaccines updates](#).

You can also call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080, and ask for an interpreter if needed.

The [Older Persons Advocacy Network \(OPAN\)](#) is available if you want to talk about any issues or concerns you have in relation to COVID-19 or if you need help engaging with your aged care provider. Call 1800 237 981, 6am-10pm (AEDT), 7 days a week or email covid@opan.com.au.