



Consent for COVID-19 vaccination for older people, including aged care residents, families and carers

June 2024

Older age remains the biggest risk factor for severe COVID-19 disease.

This document will support you, your family and carers, to make an **informed decision** about whether to have a COVID-19 vaccination.

Consent to get a COVID-19 vaccination may be **written or verbal** and must be recorded by the vaccination provider.

Frequently asked questions

Why is it important to remain current with your COVID-19 vaccinations?

COVID-19 vaccines give protection against serious illness and death, however this protection decreases over time.

Evidence suggests that protection for people aged 65 years and older greatly increases with a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine every 6 months.

COVID-19 causes severe illness, hospitalisation, and deaths in older people and those who are severely immunocompromised.

COVID-19 cases continue to occur in residential aged care homes. COVID-19 vaccines are voluntary but strongly encouraged for aged care residents.

What are the current recommendations for COVID-19 vaccinations?

For people aged 75 years or older a COVID-19 vaccination is **recommended every 6 months**.

For people aged 65 to 74 years a COVID-19 vaccination is recommended **every 12 months** and can be offered **every 6 months** on the advice of your health care provider.

All adults are eligible to get a booster dose every 12 months.

Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccination?

If you are living in the community:

1. Speak with your GP or community pharmacist to see if they provide COVID-19 vaccinations.
2. Find a provider and book through the Health Service Finder at www.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services or call 1800 022 222.

Find out if you are eligible through the eligibility checker at www.healthdirect.gov.au/australian-health-services/guided-search/covid-vaccine, where you can also specify any accessibility requirements.

If you live in an aged care home:

- Your home will arrange a COVID-19 vaccination clinic with local health services such as GPs and pharmacists.
- You can also ask your GP or pharmacist at your next visit.
- If you, your family and carers have questions, you can also speak to your aged care home provider, GP or pharmacist.

What happens if consent is needed from a guardian or substitute decision-maker?

Sometimes a guardian or substitute decision-maker needs to give consent for an aged care resident to get vaccinated. In such cases, they should follow the guardianship legislation in their state or territory.

Some jurisdictions have special requirements for guardians or substitute decision makers consenting for another person.

Where can I find information about COVID-19 and vaccines?

See the Department of Health and Aged Care website: health.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines

Further assistance

For translating and interpreting services, call TIS National on 131 450.

To use the National Relay Service, visit nrchat.nrscall.gov.au/nrs to choose your preferred access point on their website, or call the NRS Helpdesk on 1800 555 660.

People with disability, their families, carers and support workers can contact the Disability Gateway to get free information about COVID-19. Call 1800 643 787, Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm.