



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Why is my in-home or community aged care employer asking me if I have received a COVID-19 vaccination?

Information current as at 13 July 2021

Vaccination is the most effective protection against COVID-19. Protecting senior Australians in the community and those who care for them is a priority.

Home Care Package (HCP) and Short-Term Restorative Care (STRC) providers of in-home and community aged care services are now required to keep records and report on the COVID-19 vaccination status of their workforce.

This information helps to understand the risks to senior Australians and the workers who care for them, as part of preparing and planning for a COVID-19 outbreak.

Starting on **13 July 2021**, HCP and STRC providers must start keeping records of their workforce COVID-19 vaccinations.

Starting on **27 July 2021**, HCP and STRC providers must provide weekly reports on My Aged Care on the:

- total number of workers at each service, and of those
- the number of workers at each service who have received a single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and
- the number of workers at each service who have received all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

Commonwealth Home Support Programme and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program (NATSIFAC) service providers in home and community settings are not required to record keep or report until later in the year.

This is to ensure CHSP and NATSIFAC services can receive guidance and support from the Department of Health on the systems, processes and capacity-building they may need in order to meet the record keeping and reporting requirements, before they are introduced.

How do the new record keeping and reporting requirements affect me?

It is strongly encouraged that you access a COVID-19 vaccination to protect yourself, your family and those in your care. It is also strongly encouraged that you let your employer know whether you have received a COVID-19 vaccination.

If you work for a Home Care Package or Short-Term Restorative Care provider, your employer will discuss with you how they will collect and report information on the COVID-19 vaccination of workers, including volunteers.

The information your workplace will report will not identify any individual.

Reporting will include all workers, including volunteers, who access, or are reasonably likely to access, any premises where the operation or administration of the service occurs.

Do I have to let my employer know if I have received a COVID-19 vaccination?

You are strongly encouraged to share this information with your employer as part of COVID-19 preparation and planning in your service.

Your employer is expected to have a respectful conversation with you to:

- explain why they are seeking information about COVID-19 vaccinations among workers
- ensure you understand it is your choice to get a COVID-19 vaccination
- ensure you understand your privacy will be protected, and
- ensure you are aware of your right to refuse to provide this information.

Do I need to show any evidence of my COVID-19 vaccination?

It is strongly encouraged. Your employer will discuss with you how they will record your COVID-19 vaccination, if you are willing to share this information with them.

Evidence you can provide to your employer includes:

- a vaccination certificate or other evidence from a vaccine provider, or
- an immunisation history statement which you can access from Medicare online or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.

Alternatively, you can provide:

- a signed declaration
- a record from a health practitioner, or
- a statement which you can request from the Australian Immunisation Register.

Where can I get information to help me decide about getting a COVID-19 vaccination?

Your service has received a range of [information and materials to support workers](#) in making a decision about getting a COVID-19 vaccination, and to help workers know where they can get a vaccination. This includes information translated into [19 languages](#).

It is important to access trusted, reliable information on COVID-19 vaccines, why vaccination is important and how to access a vaccination. It is recommended that you regularly visit the [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au) website for the latest information on COVID-19 in Australia.

For more information:

Contact the Department of Health via email: AgedCareCOVID-19Vaccine@Health.gov.au or contact your union for advice and support.