



Secretary

Department of Health

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BAC-CO-17807

Dear Residential Aged Care Provider

As you are aware, National Cabinet has decided to mandate that all residential aged care workers have at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccination by mid-September 2021.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) has endorsed the scope of the workforce to establish mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements for the following residential aged care workers:

- Full time, part-time and casual staff employed or engaged on behalf of the residential aged care facility (RACF) (such as agency staff working onsite) including:
 - Direct care workforce (nurses; personal care workers; allied health professionals, and allied health assistants)
 - Administration staff (reception; management; administration)
 - Ancillary staff (food preparation; cleaning; laundry; garden; maintenance)
 - Lifestyle / social care (music/art therapy); Transport drivers collecting residents from RACFs for outings
- Volunteers engaged by the RACF
- Students on placement
- Medical practitioners who attend and provide care to residents.

Victoria is working with the Commonwealth on the implementation of the national cabinet decision and intends to mandate the requirement as agreed.

I am writing to remind services of the need to be prepared for commencement and ensuring that your workforce has had their first dose of vaccine by 16 September 2021. Any roster changes from mid-September should be communicated to affected employees as soon as possible.

To facilitate this requirement, all residential aged care workers as defined above who identify as a public or private sector residential aged care worker, volunteer or student on placement will have priority access to their choice of Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccinations, regardless of age. The vaccine is free to everyone and a Medicare card is not required to book an appointment or receive a vaccine.

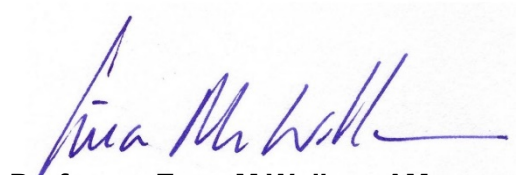
Staff members, volunteers and students on placement can make bookings online at coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment or by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 (for priority access appointments).

Australian Government grants are available to support residential aged care workers to get vaccinated. Under the [Residential Aged Care COVID-19 Employee Vaccination Support Grant](#), providers can apply for support in any or all, of the following three categories:

- Casual staff going off-site for vaccination
- One day paid leave for casual staff who cannot attend a rostered shift because they become unwell after vaccination
- Facilitation of either on or off-site vaccination for all staff (eg: transport costs, arranging groups of staff to be vaccinated)

Please ensure that you are reporting to the Commonwealth accurate and up to date data on vaccination rates.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Euan M Wallace', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Professor Euan M Wallace AM
Secretary

16 / 08 / 2021