



COVID-19 VACCINATION

How residential aged care workers can prove your COVID-19 vaccination status to your employer

Information current as at 6 September 2021

From 17 September 2021, it is a condition of employment for residential aged care workers to have received at least a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

This is required under your [state or territory public health order](#) on mandatory COVID-19 vaccination in residential aged care.

You must provide evidence of your COVID-19 vaccination status to your employer before 17 September 2021. Your employer should also keep a record of your vaccination status, in line with the direction set out in the relevant state or territory public health order.

What evidence can you provide?

There are two options for you to provide evidence of COVID-19 vaccination in Australia:

1. A COVID-19 Digital Certificate, for individuals who have received all required doses of a vaccine as approved for use in Australia.
2. An Immunisation History Statement, which displays all vaccinations or medical contraindications and authorised exemptions, including COVID-19, that have been reported to the Australian Immunisation Register.

The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is a national immunisation register which records vaccines given to all people in Australia. This includes COVID-19 vaccines, vaccines given under the National Immunisation Program, and privately, such as for seasonal influenza or travel.

How can you access your Immunisation History Statement?

You can access your Immunisation History Statement:

- online, by setting up your own [myGov account](#) and then accessing your [Medicare online account](#); or
- through the [Express Plus Medicare mobile app](#); or
- by calling the Australian Immunisation Register enquiries line on 1800 653 809 (8am-5pm, Monday to Friday AEST) and asking them to send your statement to you. Please allow up to 14 days to receive your statement in the post; or
- by asking your doctor or vaccination provider to print a copy of your statement for you.

Proof of vaccination through your Medicare Online Account

- If you have a Medicare Card, you can access your COVID-19 Digital Certificate and/or your Immunisation History Statement via your [Medicare online account](#) through [myGov](#):
 - Sign into www.myGov.au and select **Medicare**
 - Under 'Services', select **View statement** on the **Immunisation history tile**
 - Select your name and then select **View history statement**
 - Then open the PDF
 - Your statement shows all of your vaccinations recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register
 - New vaccinations may take a few days to appear on your statement
 - If you think something is missing, contact your vaccine provider and ask them to update the register
 - Watch this [easy-to-follow video](#) which takes you through the above steps or visit [Medicare online account - Services Australia](#).

Proof of vaccination from My Health Record

[My Health Record](#) is an online summary of your key health information. To access your My Health Record online, you need to have a myGov account and to link it to your record.

If you do not have Medicare, you can still get proof of your vaccination through My Health Record. You will need to apply for an individual healthcare identifier from Services Australia, if you don't already have one. You can do this online – www.digitalhealth.gov.au/mhr-without-medicare-details .

To create your My Health Record, visit www.myhealthrecord.gov.au

When you log into your **My Health Record**, you can get your [proof of vaccination](#) from the **record home page**.

- To get your document from the **record home page**:
 - Scroll to the **Health snapshot** section
 - Click **Immunisation History Statement** or **COVID-19 digital certificate** to open the PDF viewer
 - The COVID-19 digital certificate link is available once you have had all required doses of a vaccine approved for use in Australia

For more information: www.digitalhealth.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions

Add your COVID-19 digital certificate to a digital wallet

You can get your COVID-19 digital certificate after you have had all required doses approved for use in Australia and your vaccination provider has entered them on the Australian Immunisation Register. For Pfizer (Comirnaty) and AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) this is two doses.

- If you have Medicare, you can add your own COVID-19 Digital Certificate to your Apple Wallet or Google Pay using either:

- the Express Plus Medicare mobile app or
- your Medicare online account through www.myGov.au
- Using the Express Plus Medicare mobile app:
 - sign into www.myGov.au using a browser on your phone and select **Medicare**.
 - select **View immunisation history** on the Immunisation history tile
 - select your **name**
 - select either **Add to Apple Wallet** or **Save to phone** for Google Pay
 - If you're using an iOS device, you can use Safari or Chrome browsers. If you're using an Android device, you need to use the Chrome browser.
- Using the [Medicare mobile app](#):
 - select **Immunisation history** from Services.
 - select your **name**, then **View COVID-19 digital certificate**.
 - select either **Add to Apple Wallet** or **Save to phone** for Google Pay.

Proof of vaccination if you received different vaccines

The Australian Immunisation Register will be updated in mid-September so people who have received two different COVID-19 vaccines can access a COVID-19 Digital Certificate.

If you have had one AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine shot and one Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine, these currently appear on your My Gov statement, but you cannot yet get a vaccination certificate.

When the update is made, a MyGov notification will be sent to people when the vaccination certificate becomes available.

In the meantime, you can use your Immunisation History Statement as proof of vaccination.

For more information on Immunisation History Statements, visit [Check immunisation history](#).

What to do if you cannot access your proof of vaccination

If you cannot access your proof of vaccination before 17 September talk to your employer. Let them know where and when you received your first dose COVID-19 vaccination and provide your proof of vaccination as soon as possible.

Your employer will record you as being vaccinated but will require you to provide documentation to confirm this is the case.

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for residential aged care workers

All residential aged care workers have access to priority free Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccinations, regardless of your age. You can still get vaccinated if you do not have a Medicare card or if you are on a visa.

Your [state or territory public health order](#) will specify who is required to be vaccinated before 17 September. The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) endorsed a national framework recommending mandatory vaccination applies to:

- Full time, part-time and casual staff employed or engaged on behalf of the residential aged care facility, 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 residential aged care facilities for outings
 - Volunteers engaged by the residential aged care facility
 - Students on placement, and
 - Medical practitioners who attend and provide care to residents.

Proof of exemption from COVID-19 vaccination

There are only limited exemptions to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination if you work in residential aged care. For more information visit your state or territory department of health website to understand what exemption documentation is required.

Each [state or territory public health order](#) on COVID-19 mandatory vaccination in residential aged care will provide direction on what exemptions may be considered. The public health order will also provide direction on the evidence workers must provide to their employer as proof of an authorised exemption to a COVID-19 vaccine.

From Tuesday 7 September 2021, your employer must report the number of workers who have:

- a permanent medical exemption authorised by a medical practitioner
- a temporary medical exemption authorised by a medical practitioner
- where applicable, an authorised temporary exemption from your state/territory public health authority, due to the inability to access a COVID-19 vaccine
- where applicable, an authorised temporary exemption due to a critical workforce shortage, to maintain the provision of quality of care or to protect the health and safety of residents, or
- an authorised exemption related to another category in the relevant state or territory public health order.

Helpful websites:

Getting proof of my COVID-19 vaccinations: www.digitalhealth.gov.au/frequently-asked-questions

Create a myGov account: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/online-help/create-mygov-account>

Create a Medicare online account:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/medicare-online-accounts>

Create a My Health Record: www.myhealthrecord.gov.au