



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Status of residential aged care workforce rollout

Information current as at 14 April 2021

Your safety is our number one priority in Australia's national COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

The vaccination of aged care residents and those who care for them is the most effective protection against COVID-19.

On 8 April 2021, the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\)](#) issued new [AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine safety advice](#) to the Australian Government.

The Government accepted ATAGI's recommendations because it places safety above all else, as has been done throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government will continue to follow the medical advice in protecting Australians.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout to residents in aged care facilities will continue as planned.

All aged care residents are receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as is the current program.

The ATAGI recommendations mean we are required to reconsider the planned vaccination rollout for aged care workers, because they were to receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

For aged care workers aged under 50, given the ATAGI advice, we are developing options with the sector.

This means that planned on-site vaccination clinics for aged care workers at aged care facilities as well as at dedicated off-site ('pop-up') vaccination clinics are being reviewed. Staff may continue to access Pfizer doses under the current excess dose policy following resident vaccination clinics where applicable.

For aged care workers aged 50 years and over, GP clinics and GP respiratory clinics continue to offer and provide AstraZeneca vaccinations for those eligible in line with the new ATAGI recommendations.

The Government is currently reviewing the overall COVID-19 vaccine strategy, in light of ATAGI's advice, to ensure vaccines are delivered as quickly and safely to Australians as soon as possible, with a particular focus on aged care and disability workers.

ATAGI recommends:

- that the [COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer \(Comirnaty\)](#) is preferred over COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in adults aged under 50 years.
- that people who have had the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca without any serious adverse effects can be given the second dose, including adults under 50 years.

Individuals with prior medical conditions or any specific concerns should consult with their GP or other health care provider.

For more information visit [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)