



ANHF

AUSTRALIAN NURSING HOME FOUNDATION

澳華療養院基金

Culturally Appropriate Aged Care Since 1980

60 Weldon Street  
Burwood NSW 2134

(02) 8741 0218 T

(02) 9747 1637 F

info@anhf.org.au E

www.anhf.org.au

22 February 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

## COVID-19 Update #25

### [COVID-19 vaccine news](#)

Australian government has recently released more information about their [COVID-19 vaccine national roll out plan](#).

While the locations of ANHF facilities are not included in the Week 1 of the COVID-19 vaccine roll out, we are expecting it will be soon to be our turn.

Therefore, I would like you keep you up to date with some guidance materials that are developed for all Australians, by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) which advises the Minister for Health on a range of immunisation issues, including COVID-19.

Please take time to read through these guidance materials which are intended to help you to make informed decision. (You can click and open the following hyperlinks to access the documents on the government website).

- A. [Consent form \(ATAGI\) for workers and residents wanting to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#).
- B. [Information on COVID-19 Pfizer \(Comirnaty\) vaccine – fact sheet](#)
- C. [Pre vaccine information \(ATAGI\)](#)
- D. [Post vaccine information \(ATAGI\)](#)
- E. [What to expect on COVID-19 vaccination Day at your residential aged care facility](#)
- F. [Consent – Process Map](#).

### **Action required**

**Please complete and return to Facility Manager as soon as possible by 5 pm  
Wednesday 24/02/2021**

1. ANHF's Nomination of Authority and Contact Details form (see attached) AND
2. the government's [Consent Form](#) (see above item A and the attached)

As with all other vaccines, valid consent is required before administering each COVID-19 vaccine dose. For most of our residents, consent will need to be sought from the substitute decision maker (Person Responsible for Care) who has been nominated by the resident and through a supported decision making process.

Decisions by substitute decision makers should take into account the individual's wishes and preference around vaccination. This includes considering their decisions to have vaccinations for themselves previously. Even when someone has a level of cognitive decline, the preference is to discuss with them their wishes and preferences in relation to vaccination. Wherever possible, the resident should be engaged in the discussions and decision to have a vaccine, in line with supported decision making principles.

### 3. Consulting your GP or other health professionals

The COVID-19 vaccine will be given to residents in the aged care facility, and does not need to be prescribed by a GP. However, you should consult your GP if you have any concerns regarding the clinical suitability of the resident receiving the vaccine. If the resident is clinically assessed by the immuniser as unsuitable to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program on the day of vaccination, this resident will be excluded from vaccination despite consent has been given.

Please let us know if you would like to be present when the resident is receiving the vaccine. However, the timetable is beyond our control as we have not received more details about the days when this is going to happen.

#### **The COVID-19 vaccination is free. You can choose to have the vaccination or not.**

A decision to not get vaccinated or an outcome of clinically unsuitable to receive the vaccine will not affect this resident's access to safe, quality residential aged care. The Charter of Aged Care Rights supports older people in their decisions about your care and is available [here](#). The National Dementia Helpline (1800 100 500) gives advice on how to best support residents living with dementia or cognitive impairment. The Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN) provides free, confidential and independent advocated who can discuss an older person's rights surrounding COVID-19 vaccination. OPAN is available on 1800 700 600.

You can find out more at the Department of Health's COVID-19 vaccines [website](#) and subscribe to the [COVID-19 vaccines update](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact our Facility Managers or their delegates if you have any questions.

We appreciate your understanding that we may have to proceed swiftly in response to the government's COVID-19 vaccine roll out directive. We will use other means such as telephone call to contact you, in additional to email at times of urgency.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua  
General Manager, Residential Care