



11th May 2021

Dear Residents and Relatives,

COVID-19 Update #30

NSW Health has provided further advice on their requirements of different aged care workers in receiving [seasonal Influenza vaccine in 2021](#).

Residential aged care residents / workers / volunteers / contractors / visitors

- **Residents**
 - The flu shot will be provided to residents free of cost. However, residents do have the right to refuse vaccinations. If a resident is unable to be vaccinated due to refusal or for medical reasons, this must be clearly documented and managed appropriately.

- **Workers / Volunteers / Contractors / Visitors**
 - **Mandatory requirement: From 1 June to 30 September 2021 all persons** (this includes but is not limited to nurses, kitchen, administration, cleaning staff, transport crews as well as any visiting volunteers or agency staff) **entering a residential aged care facility must be required to provide evidence that they received a dose of the 2021 influenza vaccination.**
 - Facilities must seek appropriate evidence of immunisation status from individuals seeking to enter the service. Appropriate evidence may be a statement or record from a health practitioner; or an immunisation history statement available from Medicare online or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app.
 - It is a compliant requirement that all facilities maintain records regarding the Influenza immunisation status of all persons entering the facilities.
 - Where the person has a [medical certificate](#) signed by the person's doctor indicating a contraindication to influenza vaccination or there are other exceptional circumstances approved by the Facility Manager, visits may be permitted provided additional precautions are applied. (Please click [here](#) to

obtain a sample template for taking to your doctor to sign off where applicable).

- **Staff and visitors are permitted to enter a facility if their influenza vaccine is delayed due to receiving COVID vaccinations.** (Medical certificate or equivalent will be accepted as evidence).

Timing Influenza Vaccination with COVID-19 Vaccination

- ***If you have not had any COVID-19 vaccine:*** wait at least 14 days after your flu vaccine to receive your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- ***If you have received one dose of COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine:*** wait at least 14 days after this first dose before having your influenza vaccine.
- The recommended interval (time) between the first and second dose of AstraZeneca is 12 weeks – ensure you have your influenza vaccine more than 14 days prior to your second dose OR 14 days after your second dose.
- ***If you have received one dose of COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine:*** do not have your flu vaccine until at least 14 days after your second dose of Pfizer vaccine.

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

We thank you again for your patience, support and understanding.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Chua
General Manager, Care Services