



COVID-19 vaccines

Special Bulletin – 3 September 2021

Information for COVID-19 vaccine providers

OFFICIAL

This is a special bulletin for health professionals and services, and subscribers to the weekly newsletter for COVID-19 vaccine providers.

Key points

Change in AstraZeneca dose interval

- From 2 September the recommended minimum interval between first and second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine will change to **six weeks**. Previously the recommended minimum interval was 12 weeks.
- This change is consistent with advice from [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation](#).
- This change is being made because of the current epidemiological conditions including community transmission of COVID-19. Reducing the interval between doses will mean more Victorians are fully vaccinated with two doses as soon as possible.
- People can elect to change their vaccine appointment for their second dose of AstraZeneca.
- Appointments can be changed by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 or using the [online booking portal](#). This will be possible from 2 September 2021.
- No existing bookings at state vaccination centres will be proactively changed.
- This change will be applied at all state vaccination centres. GPs, pharmacies and other immunisers may exercise their discretion in determining what dose interval to use (in line with ATAGI guidelines).

Expanded workforce recruitment

- The Department of Health has authorised a broad number of additional health professions and student cohorts to prepare and administer the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Additional trained and authorised workforces will be required to support the increased vaccination activity required. They are additional workforces rather than replacing jobs.
- New workforces will have to complete online and practical training and will work under supervision – so there are high levels of safety embedded.
- Full details about the new workforces will be available in version 27 of the [Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines](#).

Health orders gazetted

[Public health emergency orders were gazetted \[PDF\]](#) and are now in force:

- The additional workforce groups include dental and oral health workforces, allied health workforces, pharmacy workforces, pathology workforces and select students of these workforce groups.
- A targeted consultation process informed the final list of new emergency authorised surge workforces and the scope of their proposed authorisation.
- These newly authorised surge workforces will support and supplement the existing vaccination workforce, increasing the available workforce pool for the COVID-19 vaccination program, helping to distribute the workforce pressures across a broader range of professions and providing greater flexibility for vaccination service providers to ensure sufficient staff can be sourced from a range of settings.
- These new workforces do not have experience in vaccination but do have suitable transferrable skills and will be trained to administer the COVID-19 vaccine under ratio-based supervision arrangements.

More information and resources

Victorian Government

- [Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines](#)

Commonwealth Government

- [Patient resources](#)
- [Vaccine provider resources](#)

Contact us

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccination program in Victoria, contact the Victorian Department of Health by emailing COVIDvaccination@health.vic.gov.au.

In case you missed it

For previous updates, please click the button to view the most recent **Department of Health special bulletin** distributed on [24 August 2021](#).