

Missed COVID-19 vaccine doses in residential aged care

A process is in place for residents that have missed a dose of Pfizer vaccine from the Commonwealth's in-reach vaccination clinics. Primary Health Networks (PHNs) have been coordinating local solutions with residential aged care facilities and in-reach workforce providers (VAS providers) to identify and enact local solutions for residents and works who missed a Pfizer dose from the Commonwealth's in-reach vaccine clinic.

Examples of local solutions arranged by PHNs for individuals to access doses include:

- Roving in-reach clinics – where the VAS providers returns to facilities to provide make-up doses to residents and staff
- Static clinics – where the VAS provider establishes a clinic at location for a short period (eg one day) for predominantly workers from a range of facilities to attend
- Mobile residents and staff attending nearby residential aged care facilities to receive a vaccine at that site's vaccination clinic
- Staff and mobile residents being referred to state run Pfizer hubs in limited circumstances

To 28 May 2021:

- PHNs have advised the department that 1222 residents and 1362 staff have been provided a make-up dose through these local solutions
- approximately 118 clinics around Australia have been held to provide make-up doses for residents and workers, the vast majority of these were in-reach clinics with a small number of static clinics

Prospective residents are strongly encouraged to receive all required doses of a COVID-19 vaccine before taking up residence in an aged care home. Residents that have not yet had a COVID-19 vaccine are able to also access a vaccine from a GP, either at the GP's practice or when visiting a facility.

Victorian outbreak response – Roving vaccination clinics

Additional roving vaccination clinics are being established by the Commonwealth Government to offer a first dose Pfizer vaccine to residents and workers in Tier 1 locations (identified by the Victorian Aged Care Response Centre), in recognition of the current community transmission risks in Victoria.

The roving clinics can return to residential aged care facilities in Tier 1 locations which have had first and/or second dose vaccination clinics. The roving in-reach clinics will offer a COVID-19 vaccine to residents and workers yet to be vaccinated.