

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

14 October 2021

PDR Number: IQ21-000311

AusTender no: CN3828245 - Distribution Services COVID-19 Booster Mail Out

Written

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Question:

With reference to CN3828245 placed on AusTender by the Department of Health:

1. How many Australians will receive letters?
2. What name and address database/s will be used for the mailouts?
3. Who are the signatories to the letter?
4. Please provide a copy of the letter.
5. When will the mailout happen?

Answer:

1. The mailout will be delivered to approximately 11.3 million households.
2. Unaddressed envelopes will be delivered 'To The Householder', utilising Australia Post's National Address File.
3. The letter is co-signed by:
 - The Hon Scott Morrison, Prime Minister
 - The Hon Greg Hunt, Minister for Health, and
 - Professor Paul Kelly, Chief Medical Officer.
4. Letter attached.
5. The mailout is being delivered to households across Australia progressively from late November 2021 to mid-January 2022. It is expected that most households, will have received letters by Christmas.



Australian Government

Dear fellow Australian,

It's now time to think about your COVID-19 **vaccine booster**, for those who are fully vaccinated. Importantly, if you are yet to have your first vaccine or complete the second vaccination, please do so.

Twenty months ago, Australia was at the start of a once-in-a-century pandemic, the size and scope of which we could barely comprehend at the time.

In the face of this challenge, each of us did what was needed to support each other and work together as a country so we could get through it safely together.

We made the sacrifices and followed the medical advice. Australia now has one of the lowest number of cases per head of population in the world and our health response has saved over 30,000 Australian lives.

Thanks to the high vaccination rates, we are now re-opening, our economy is strongly re-emerging, and people can get back to seeing family, travelling and living a more normal life.

An important part of this process is ensuring that every person in Australia has access to vaccine boosters to help maintain the best possible defence against serious illness or death.

With over 151 million additional doses secured, boosters are freely available to everybody who is fully vaccinated, and should be taken from 6 months after your second dose. The date you had your second dose is shown on your vaccination certificate. You'll be able to get your booster from your GP, local pharmacist, or you can make a booking through **australia.gov.au**

With over 80% of Australia already fully vaccinated and more doing so every day, we can be proud of being one of the most protected countries in the world against COVID.

Everyone in Australia is encouraged to take up the vaccine boosters to make sure we can keep each and every one of us safe.

The Hon Scott Morrison
Prime Minister

The Hon Greg Hunt
Minister for Health

Prof Paul Kelly
Chief Medical Officer



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

COVID-19 Vaccination Booster Doses

People living in Australia aged 18 and over are now eligible to receive a booster vaccination dose at least six months after they have completed their primary two-dose course of COVID-19 vaccination.

The booster dose is free and available through GPs, state and territory-run clinics, pharmacies, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Commonwealth Vaccination Centres.

Your booster dose can be a different brand to the one you received for your primary course of vaccination. Your vaccine provider will be able to advise you what vaccine is appropriate for your circumstances.

Two doses of COVID-19 vaccines provide very good protection, especially against severe disease. The booster dose will make sure the protection from the first two doses is even stronger and longer lasting. It should also help prevent spread of the virus.

Severely immunocompromised people who have had a third dose to complete their primary course of vaccination are not currently recommended to have a booster dose.

Only one booster dose is recommended and at this stage there is no recommendation for any further booster doses.

The current evidence suggests a booster dose is not required until at least six months after a person has completed their primary course of vaccination.

Even if you have had a booster dose, it is very important you continue to practise COVIDSafe measures, including good hand washing and cough and sneeze hygiene. Get tested if you have any symptoms of COVID-19.

Further information about the Australian Government's COVID-19 booster vaccination program is available at www.health.gov.au/booster-dose and is translated into 63 languages.

My family's booster doses are due:

Name:	Date:
_____	_____
Name:	Date:
_____	_____
Name:	Date:
_____	_____
Name:	Date:
_____	_____
Name:	Date:
_____	_____



When it's time for your booster, book an appointment or find out more at www.australia.gov.au or call 1800 020 080.

For interpreting services, call 131 450.

COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone in Australia. This includes booster doses.

Find out more

www.australia.gov.au

The National Coronavirus Helpline: **1800 020 080**

Information in your language

The National Coronavirus Helpline: **1800 020 080**



For interpreting services call: **131 450**

www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages



Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

For specific information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people visit:

www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines/indigenous

A dedicated service is available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by calling the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080** and choosing option 5.

Support for people with disability

Information is available in Auslan and Easy Read on

www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines



A dedicated service to provide support to people with disability and their carers is available by calling the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080** and choosing option 5.

People with disability can also get support through the Disability Gateway website www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/coronavirus or by calling **1800 643 787**. This call centre operates Monday to Friday, 8am to 8pm Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST).