



## Resthaven Residential Services

### Information for residents, staff and volunteers

#### COVID-19 Vaccination

The Australian Government has a plan to roll-out COVID-19 vaccines to everyone living in Australia in five phases over the coming months.

#### COVID-19 Vaccination for residential aged care workers and residents

Residential aged care workers and residents will be among the first people to be offered free vaccine. It is planned that vaccination will commence in late February 2021.

Getting vaccinated is important, as COVID-19 is a very contagious virus that can cause serious respiratory infection, particularly in older people.

#### How do we know the vaccine is safe?

All vaccines used in Australia must be approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA is a group of independent clinical experts who assess the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccine before it is registered for use.

Immunisation is a safe and effective way to help protect staff and residents in residential care from serious disease caused by the COVID-19 virus. When enough people in the community are immunised, it is more difficult for the virus to spread from person to person.

#### How will the vaccine be distributed?

Residents and aged care workers will be able to receive their vaccination in the residential aged care home. Skilled immunisation staff will visit the home to administer the vaccine.

Whilst getting vaccinated is voluntary, it is **STRONGLY** recommended.

#### Do we still need other precautions to stop the spread of COVID-19?

Yes, we need to continue COVIDSafe practices (eg hand hygiene, physical distancing). Having the vaccine is just one part of keeping the community safe and healthy.

#### What about having the annual influenza vaccine?

The current advice from Australia's immunisation experts is: the minimum interval between having COVID-19 vaccination and any influenza vaccine is 14 days.

#### Where can you find TRUSTED information about COVID-19 vaccination?

You can find information, including translated information on the Commonwealth Department of Health's COVID-19 vaccine website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>

You can talk to your GP about COVID-19 vaccines and why vaccination is an important part of keeping our community safe and healthy.

#### COVID-19 Vaccines

The Pfizer / BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been provisionally approved by the TGA for people over 16 years of age. This vaccine requires two doses, 21 days apart.

The Oxford / AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has been provisionally approved by TGA for people 18 years and older. Two doses will be required. This vaccine can be safely administered 4-12 weeks apart.

The TGA will continue to assess other COVID-19 vaccines for future use in Australia.