



COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 Information for General Practice

OFFICIAL

11 September 2021

COVID-19 vaccine eligibility

From 9am next Monday 13 September, children aged 12 to 15 and people aged 60+ will be able to book a Pfizer appointment at SA Health vaccination clinics.

Bookings must be made online via the SA Health website at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidvaccine.

Appointments are in high demand, and more will be added as more vaccine becomes available. If your patient cannot find an appointment now, please advise to try again later or look for an alternative vaccination clinic.

All SA Health clinics will offer vaccines to children 12 to 15 years with the exception of pop-up clinics at Adelaide Myer Centre and Pooraka.

Those who already have an existing booking for their first dose of AstraZeneca at an SA Health vaccination clinic, should not cancel their appointment. They will have the option to have Pfizer or AstraZeneca at their appointment.

As per advice received from the Commonwealth, GP practices that have capacity and available stock may book patients based on state and territory eligibility criteria for vaccination. Priority access to vaccination should still be given as per age recommendations.

Guidance for GPs on providing certification of medical exemptions from mandatory COVID-19 vaccination

From 17 September 2021 under the [Residential Aged Care Facilities Direction](#) all RACF staff, contractors and volunteers are required to have received at least one dose of a TGA approved COVID-19 vaccine and have evidence of a booking to receive, or have received, a second dose. Further details regarding the requirement are available [here](#).

Medical exemptions for mandatory COVID-19 vaccination should be based on the current ATAGI contra-indications and precautions where there is sufficient evidence that no currently approved and available vaccine is appropriate. Medical practitioners can provide written advice (e.g. medical certificate) to the RACF certifying that the person has a permanent vaccine exemption or temporary vaccine exemption until a specified date.

In some cases, a patient can be considered for a medical exemption from vaccination where they do not meet the limited list of contra-indications or precautions delineated by ATAGI. In these instances the exemptions can only be granted after documented consultation with and advice from a specialist immunisation service

Note that those under 60 can be considered to have a precaution to AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccination if they so wish for the purposes of medical exemption.

Pregnancy is currently listed as an appropriate basis for temporary exemption from mandatory vaccination. This is not in keeping with medical advice that it is safe and advised that pregnant women should be vaccinated against COVID-19. A patient presenting to a medical practitioner requesting a medical exemption from COVID vaccination due to pregnancy needs only to provide certification of their pregnancy to their employer. GPs therefore do not need to provide a medical exemption as such in these circumstances (rather, just evidence of pregnancy).

There is only a requirement for a medical practitioner to certify for a third party the existence of an accepted medical exemption and whether it is permanent or temporary as per the current Aged Care Direction (and not the basis as such for that exemption). There is no SA Health defined specific form required for exemption certification though we do plan to provide suggested templates for certificates of medical exemption.

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