

## Phase 1b COVID-19 vaccination roll-out

The Department of Health (DH) is continuing to roll-out COVID-19 vaccines aligned to the Australian Government's COVID-19 vaccination schedule.

Following **Phase 1a**, the following groups relevant to freight and logistics will be eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine:

### Phase 1b (Priority 2)

- Workers in meat and seafood cold chain storage and transport, meaning workers engaged in the cold chain storage or the transport of meat/seafood products from abattoirs and further meat/seafood processing facilities
- Workers involved in distribution/delivery of COVID-19 vaccines
- Household contacts of quarantine and border workers

### Phase 1b (Priority 3)

- Commercial Passenger Vehicles: drivers of ride-share, taxis and other for-hire vehicles registered with CPVV
- Public Transport: public-facing public transport staff who are required to enter the enclosed bus/tram/train/ferry with members of the public to conduct their work

DH will provide further information when access to the Pfizer vaccine is available for the Phase 1b groups.

## Vaccination Bookings

From 3 May 2021, anyone 50 years and over is eligible to access the AstraZeneca vaccine through a State vaccination clinic or a local general practice.

Bookings at State vaccination clinics can be made via the Victorian vaccination hotline on **1800 675 398**. Appointments can be made now for vaccination from 3 May.

State vaccination clinics are available in convenient locations across Victoria, and the location of high volume vaccination clinics can be found [here](#).

To view all State and general practice vaccination clinics, use the Australian Government's COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker [www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker](http://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker).

## Access to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends that Pfizer is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for people aged under 50 years.

**Due to the limited number of Pfizer doses currently provided by the Australian Government, people aged under 50 years who are part of the following groups will currently receive priority access to Pfizer across state vaccination centres:**

- **Phase 1a** – Hotel quarantine, border workers, port workers, frontline healthcare and testing staff.
- **Phase 1b (Priority 1)** – Household members of hotel quarantine staff and border workers, other healthcare workers

People who are under 50 years and in phase 1a or Phase 1b (Priority 1) can book an appointment by calling the Victorian Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 – Select Option 3 – Option 2 – Option 2.

The Department of Health is working with health services to identify more locations, including in regional Victoria. At this time appointments for Pfizer vaccine are only being offered through locations in Melbourne and via the Victorian Coronavirus Hotline. When people book, they will be able to choose the appointment location most convenient to them.

The priority access to Pfizer will continue to be reviewed in light of the latest information and supply of Pfizer vaccine from the Australian Government.

### Priority access to Pfizer vaccine

The following people will be the next priority groups to receive Pfizer. Department of Health will advise when these people can access Pfizer.

- **Phase 1b (Priority 2)** – Critical and high-risk workers (e.g. meat processing, emergency services, CFA/SES volunteers, and those involved in AstraZeneca manufacturing), and adults with underlying medical conditions or disability

The following people are also able to continue to receive Pfizer vaccine (irrespective of age):

- Those who have received a first dose of Pfizer vaccine
- Those with a history of Cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) or Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) and other situations where it is medically indicated
- Those who have anaphylaxis after a previous dose of AstraZeneca vaccine
- Those who have anaphylaxis to polysorbate 80 (a component of AstraZeneca vaccine)

There may be minor exceptions for operational reasons only.

### Flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine reminder

The COVID-19 vaccine does not protect against the flu, so people are encouraged to still have a flu shot. When people book an appointment to have a COVID-19 vaccine or flu vaccine they should be advised of the recommended spacing between these vaccines:

- The flu vaccine should not be administered at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine. It is recommended that you wait at least 14 days after you receive the COVID-19 vaccine to get the flu vaccine.
- The same applies if you have a flu vaccine first, you should wait at least 14 days before being vaccinated against COVID-19.

The DH appreciates your patience as it rolls out the immunisation program. If you have any queries related to the COVID-19 vaccine, please contact [COVIDVaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVIDVaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au)