

## Queensland COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation: Agribusiness

Vaccination remains the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against the impacts of COVID-19, including serious illness or death from the virus. Combined with COVID safe behaviours, vaccines give us the best chance of keeping our community and businesses open and doing more of the things we enjoy.

### Impacts of COVID-19 on agribusiness

Producers and agribusiness workers perform essential agribusiness services for the agriculture supply chain and farming activities. If a farm or agribusiness facility is locked down due to a COVID-19 outbreak amongst its workers, it will disrupt the supply of food or fibre, impact the welfare of animals, and cause economic losses to the agribusiness.

By getting vaccinated against COVID-19, we will minimise the risk of business lockdowns and disruption to service delivery and employment, and protect our family, colleagues, and community.

### Are agribusiness workers who are non-permanent residents able to access the COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone in Australia, even if you are not an Australian citizen or permanent resident. This includes people without a Medicare card, overseas visitors, international students, migrant workers and asylum seekers.

If you [don't have a Medicare card](#), or are not eligible for Medicare, you can get your free vaccination at:

- a Commonwealth Vaccination Clinic
- a state or territory vaccination clinic (in Queensland it is a general practitioner-led respiratory clinic known as a GPRC)
- community pharmacies that are administering COVID-19 vaccines
- general practice providers (but they cannot bill for this service under Medicare or otherwise).

You can find and book an appointment at a clinic through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#).

If you don't have a Medicare card you can get proof that you have had your COVID-19 vaccination by:

- asking your vaccination provider to **print a copy** of your [Immunisation History Statement](#) for you
- calling the [Australian Immunisation Register](#) to have an Immunisation History Statement **sent in the post**. It can take up to 14 days to arrive.

### How can people book to receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are being given in a staged approach. Those who are at higher risk of getting COVID-19, or of severe illness if they get COVID-19, will receive the COVID-19 vaccine first.

A vaccination appointment can be booked at a:

- **Queensland Health vaccination location**  
[Register online](#) and you will be contacted to make a booking as soon as appointments become available.
- **participating General Practitioner (GP) or community health service**  
Book an appointment directly with your own GP.

## **What support is available for culturally and linguistically diverse workers?**

If anyone needs an interpreter to book their vaccination appointment at a Government Vaccination Clinic, they can call 13 42 68 and ask to be connected to an interpreter. **If an interpreter is needed to phone this service, first call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and they can connect you.**

If an interpreter is needed at the vaccine appointment, advise a staff member when you arrive at the vaccination location so they can arrange this for you. This is a free service.

Multicultural Connect is also available to help people access aid, assistance and mental health services in their language. Call 1300 079 020, Monday to Friday 9 am—4.30 pm.

Information about the vaccine is available in different languages on the [Australian Government Department of Health website](#).

## **Can an agribusiness worker refuse a COVID-19 vaccine and still be employed? Will the vaccine be mandatory?**

There is currently no Public Health Directive in place mandating compulsory vaccination for the agriculture, fisheries or forestry industries. We are asking all Queenslanders to get vaccinated as the vaccine is our best chance at reducing the seriousness of COVID-19 in individuals and potentially controlling the spread in the community.

Up-to-date information on Directives can be found at [Chief Health Officer Public Health Directions](#).

## **Are QFever vaccinations able to be provided at the same time as COVID-19 vaccinations? Are seasonal flu vaccinations able to be offered at the same time as COVID-19 vaccinations?**

The current advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation remains that a gap of seven days, either side of receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, is recommended for all other vaccines. More information can be found at [Advice on administering seasonal influenza vaccines](#).

## **Further information**

For further information on providing the COVID-19 vaccine to agribusiness workers in Queensland, please email [info@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@daf.qld.gov.au)