

Queensland COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation: **Meat processors, seafood and food distribution workers**

Meat processors, seafood and food distribution workers have been identified as a priority group to receive the COVID-19 vaccination. The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) is supporting these priority agribusinesses to coordinate vaccination of their employees. Those workers who wish to get the vaccine are encouraged to consult with their employer.

When will meat processors, seafood and food distribution workers be given access to COVID-19 vaccinations?

Meat processors, seafood and food distribution workers are currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as a priority group. Options to receive the vaccine include:

- Registering to book an appointment at a Queensland Health vaccination location. On the [registration form](#), select the cohort category 'Meat processing, seafood and food distribution workers'. If the employer has been issued with a registration code, enter this code on the form. Don't worry if you don't have a code—while it is helpful for reporting purposes, you will still receive the same priority service without it.
- Accessing the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#) to book a vaccination at a participating General Practitioner (GP) or community pharmacy.

Will workers be offered the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine?

Anyone who is eligible to access the vaccine as a priority worker is eligible to register their interest to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Our national supply of Pfizer vaccine remains limited, though it is expected to increase substantially from October 2021. As such, Queensland Health currently needs to prioritise vaccination for people who have a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19 and those who are due for their second dose.

Can a 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 meat and seafood processing and food distribution industries.

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

Will workers need to produce company identification to be given a vaccine?

Employees who register their interest to receive a vaccine at a local community vaccination hub, or who visit their GP, are currently required to produce proof of employment and therefore their eligibility as a priority worker.

Note: COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone in Australia regardless of Medicare or visa status. Additional information can be found at [vaccine information if you are not eligible for Medicare](#)

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