

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Pacific nations workers employed under the Pacific Labour Scheme and Seasonal Worker Programme

The Pacific Labour Scheme / Seasonal Worker Programme (PLS/SWP) sources workers from Pacific nations who represent a low COVID-19 risk. Before arrival into Queensland the workers must obtain approval from Queensland's Chief Health Officer to enter under strict quarantine arrangements.

The PLS/SWP continues to work very closely with Queensland Health to ensure that the community and these workers are all protected from the potential risks from COVID-19.

To date, Queensland has brought in almost 3000 Pacific nations workers to provide valuable support to the agriculture industry. There have been no cases of COVID-19 in any of these workers.

Q: Do Pacific nations workers have to get vaccinated prior to travelling to Australia?

There is no current requirement for Pacific nations workers to be vaccinated with one or two doses prior to arrival in Queensland.

The vaccine is voluntary in Australia. Everyone who is eligible is encouraged to get vaccinated to help protect themselves and the community from COVID-19.

Q: Can Pacific nations workers get vaccinated before they travel to Australia?

For information on how to access vaccinations please refer to the country of origin.

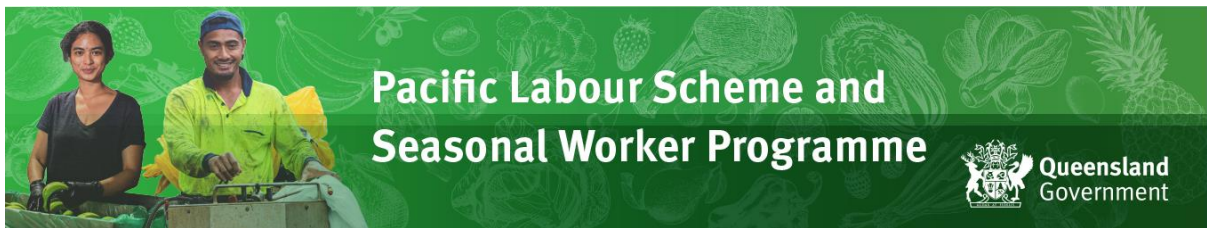
If workers have received their first vaccination dose in their country of origin prior to arrival in Australia, Queensland Health will provide them with their second dose in the designated vaccination timeframe in Queensland. Workers will be required to provide details of their first vaccination by Queensland Health before the second dose can be provided.

Q: Can Pacific nations workers get vaccinated during quarantine?

There is no option for Pacific nations workers to get vaccinated during hotel quarantine only after exiting their period of quarantine. For further information, contact the [local Public Health Unit](#).

For further information, please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on **13 25 23** or email info@daf.qld.gov.au





Q: If a Pacific nations worker is either vaccinated or partially vaccinated before arrival into Australia, do they still need to complete quarantine?

Yes, a fully vaccinated or partially vaccinated Pacific nations worker will be required to undertake a minimum of 14 days quarantine upon arrival in Queensland. They will have access to support throughout this period and will be required to participate in regular testing for COVID-19. This applies regardless of whether they will be staying in hotel, on-farm or regional quarantine accommodation.

Q: Why is it important for employers to promote vaccinations to agribusiness workers?

Promoting vaccination against COVID-19 amongst agribusiness workers will reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 impacting the employees and their workplace, minimising the risk of business disruption and maintaining a healthy workforce. By being vaccinated, you are reducing your ability to spread COVID-19 and protecting your colleagues, family, and the community.

Q: What is the role and responsibilities of an Approved Employer in terms of Pacific nations workers health whilst in Australia?

During the period of quarantine Approved Employers operating on-farm or regional facility are required to engage health care providers for their worker. In hotel quarantine, Queensland Health will provide a response to health care requirements for Pacific nations workers.

COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone in Australia regardless of Medicare or visa status. 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 or state or territory vaccination clinic.

If you are not eligible for Medicare, providers can still supply COVID-19 vaccines to you but cannot bill for this service (Medicare or otherwise). Please check with your usual practice for where you can access the vaccine from. The vaccine will be delivered free of charge.

Q: What can be done about prioritising agribusiness workers for the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible?

Queensland is following the Australian Government's eligibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccination. Registering your interest for a COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to secure an appointment at a Queensland Health vaccination location. Once you have registered, you will be invited to book an appointment in your local area when appointments become available.

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