

## How to book a priority vaccine - authorised worker vaccinations and Test and Isolate payments



Dear service provider,

Following the COVID update sent on Sunday 15 August, I'm writing to provide further information about how to book a priority vaccine appointment for you or your staff; and advice about a new payment that may assist any casuals you employ.

You or your staff can now book a priority vaccine appointment if you are an authorised worker and contracted by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) in particular sectors (see below), aged 16 – 39 years and live in one of the Local Government Areas (LGAs) of concern in Greater Sydney listed [here](#).

Getting vaccinated helps to protect yourself, your staff, those you live with and the community. Two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine will give you around 90% protection against hospitalisation and death from COVID-19, and significantly reduces the risk of spreading the virus to other people.

### How to book as an authorised worker

Authorised workers include staff who work for non-government organisations contracted by DCJ to deliver services in:

- child protection, including out-of-home care and child and family services
- homelessness and housing services, including community housing providers
- disability services

Your staff can [find a priority clinic and book their appointment](#) as an authorised worker today. NSW Health has provided the attached information to help authorised workers book their priority vaccine. It is important that the instructions are followed to ensure that you and your staff are able to make an appointment. Please note that while the attached guidance refers to DCJ staff, the same guidance applies to eligible staff of NGOs funded by DCJ.

### How to book if you are aged 16 – 39 years

If you have staff aged 16 – 39 years and living in one of the areas of concern, they are now eligible to book a priority appointment for the Pfizer vaccine.

The majority of cases and a quarter of people in intensive care with COVID-19 in NSW are under the age of 40. The Delta strain spreads easily, and in areas of concern people are more likely to come in to contact with the virus.

### Test and Isolate support payment

If you employ casuals, please advise them about this payment. The NSW Government recently announced the Test and Isolate support payment for eligible casual workers who need to self-isolate and are unable to work while waiting for their COVID-19 test result.

The \$320 payment is to encourage workers to get tested immediately if they are feeling unwell, even with mild symptoms, and to isolate at home and avoid potential COVID-19 transmission.

To be eligible, workers must be:

- 17 years or older and live in one of the local government areas of concern

- working without sick/carer/pandemic leave entitlements, and not receiving or eligible for any other income support including a pandemic payment.

Applications are now open to workers who had a COVID-19 test on or after 13 August 2021. For more information, download the [Test and Isolate support payment factsheet](#) or apply through [Service NSW](#).

More information

Please visit [COVID-19 | NSW Government](#) for more information and continue to regularly review the full list of impacted venues which can be found [here](#). This list is regularly updated with the latest health information and I encourage you to keep checking back to the website for further updates.

We're actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation and we'll continue to provide regular updates. The [NSW Government COVID-19 website](#) is the best place to keep informed on what you need to know about the current situation.

We're regularly updating information on the [DCJ COVID-19 latest updates](#) and [DCJ program specific advice](#) webpages. This includes [COVID-19 CALD resources](#) in community languages and [practice guidance for virtual home visits](#). NCOSS have resources to provide [latest information on COVID-19 relevant to health and community services sector](#).

We're here to support you. If you need help, please contact your contract manager or email us at [COVID19.Support@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:COVID19.Support@facs.nsw.gov.au)

If you have any questions, please contact your DCJ contract manager.

Regards

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