



Carer first name and last name  
Address  
SUBURB STATE Postcode

Ref: AF21/28711

Dear carer,

### **Booking COVID-19 vaccination appointments for children in your care**

Thank you for the love and support you provide to the children in your care, especially now with all the additional challenges for families created by COVID-19.

The health and wellbeing of children and young people, and the carers who care for them, are our top priority. Being vaccinated significantly reduces the chance of being unwell if you are exposed to COVID-19 and it also helps to keep our families and communities safe.

Now is the time to book a vaccination appointment for the children in your care if they meet the eligibility criteria, and for yourself if you have not already been vaccinated.

**All children aged 12-15 are now eligible for the Pfizer vaccine.** COVID-19 vaccinations are also available for all people aged 16 years and older.

I encourage you to get yourself and all children in your care vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. Talk to your child or young person's General Practitioner (GP) or specialist if you have any questions regarding their health and medical conditions.

### **Next steps**

**Book an appointment.** To check your eligibility and book an appointment at a location near you, visit the Australian Government eligibility checker at [healthdirect.gov.au](https://healthdirect.gov.au). Depending on where you live vaccinations are available from:

- local GPs
- vaccination hubs

There will be challenges getting appointments for Pfizer vaccines in some areas and different GPs may get access to Pfizer at different times. You may need to wait for an appointment, but more vaccinations are becoming available every day. Keep checking availability in your area and keep trying to make a booking.

Another vaccine, Moderna, may also be available to children 12-15 in the near future.

You can also use this same eligibility checker for yourself and any other members of your household. If you'd like support using the eligibility checker, please speak with your caseworker.

### **Talk to the child or young person in your care about the vaccine and what will happen.**

Talk about the vaccination in a way that your child or young person can understand. Let them know that a vaccine is a type of medicine that helps people fight a virus and that it can stop people from getting sick from the virus.

The information sheet attached provides useful links that may assist.

**Ask your caseworker for support.** They can assist you with a booking or transport to and from the vaccination appointment if needed.

**Remember to inform your caseworker** when the child or young person in your care:

- has been booked in to get vaccinated
- received their first vaccine dose
- received their second vaccine dose.

Please contact your caseworker if you have any concerns or need any assistance.

These are unsettling and challenging times for everyone – not least those involved in caring for and supporting children in out of home care. Even as the COVID-19 vaccines are becoming more available, it is still important to remain COVID safe.

Keep up to date with the latest health advice and restrictions by visiting the NSW Government website [www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules](http://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules).

Thank you for caring for children and young people. Your support is critical for the health and wellbeing of children and young people in care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Coutts-Trotter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Michael Coutts-Trotter**  
**Secretary**