



Carer first name and last name
Address
SUBURB STATE Postcode

Ref: AF21/28711

Dear carer,

It's time to book COVID-19 vaccinations for children in your care aged 5 to 11 years old

Thank you for the care and support you provide to the children in your care, especially during this year when COVID-19 has created additional challenges for families.

The health and wellbeing of children and young people, and the carers who care for them, is 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. **The Department of Communities and Justice strongly encourages COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible children in care.**

On 5 December 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) provisionally approved the Pfizer vaccine as safe and effective for use among Australian children aged 5 to 11 years old. From early 2022 children aged 5 to 11 years old will be able to receive their vaccination against COVID-19.

The Pfizer vaccine approved by the TGA for children aged 5 to 11 is the same safe and effective vaccine used for other age groups against COVID-19, however is one-third the dose approved for those aged 12 years and over.

From January 2022 all children aged 5 to 11 years old will be eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Bookings for vaccinations are expected to open from 24 December 2021. COVID-19 vaccinations are already available for all people aged 12 years and older.

I encourage you to get yourself and all children in your care vaccinated as soon as you 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 book an appointment at a location near you from late December 2021, you can visit the Australian Government COVID-19 vaccine clinic finder at healthdirect.gov.au. Vaccinations are available from:

- your local GP or Aboriginal Medical Service
- vaccination hubs
- your local pharmacy.

If you would like support finding a vaccination clinic in your area, 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 the child or young person in your care 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.

Please remember, even as the COVID-19 vaccines are becoming available to more people, 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.

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,



Simone Czech
Deputy Secretary