

MANDATORY COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FAQS – STUDENTS

WHO NEEDS TO BE VACCINATED?

The WA Government requires health care workers, health support workers, primary health care workers, and residential aged care facility workers to be vaccinated by the deadlines described in Table 1, to enter a health care facility, primary health care facility, or a residential aged care facility (as applicable).

The State Government has also announced that a majority of workers in Western Australia will need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to attend work, with deadlines between 1 December 2021 and 31 January 2022. While university workers are not listed, the other workers include (amongst others):

- Onsite resources sector workers; and
- Staff working in or entering remote Aboriginal communities,

who must be partially vaccinated by 1 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 31 December 2021, and

- Workers in child care and schools; and
- Workers doing services necessary for the health and welfare of any person, animal or premises,

who must be partially vaccinated by 31 December 2021 and fully vaccinated by 31 January 2022.

Guidance about these new requirements will be circulated once the relevant State Directions are released. Students may choose to get vaccinated before the Directions are published to ensure they meet the applicable deadlines for their own work, or for their placements.

WHO ARE HEALTH CARE, HEALTH SUPPORT, PRIMARY HEALTH CARE, AND RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITY WORKERS?

Health care workers include any person who provides health, medical, nursing, midwifery, pathology, pharmaceutical social work, or allied health services to a patient at the health care facility, as well as students who are on placement at a health care facility as a formal part of their education.

Health support workers include any person who provides goods or services at a health care facility.

Primary health care facility worker includes a person who provides health services (e.g. medical, nursing, dental, allied health, mental health, pharmaceutical, health education, drug and alcohol counselling, human pathology) to a patient at a primary health care facility, a student on a placement or internship at the primary health care facility as a formal part of their education, and a person who provides goods or services at a primary health care facility (including someone engaged by a third party, an administrative staff member, an ancillary staff member such as a cleaner or a gardener, or a person who provides commercial activities at the facility).

Table 1

Facility	Description	Vaccination requirements
Residential aged care facility	A facility at which accommodation, and personal care or nursing care or both, are provided to a person in respect of whom a residential care subsidy or a flexible care	Partially vaccinated by 17 September 2021

Facility	Description	Vaccination requirements
	subsidy is payable under the <i>Aged Care Act 1997</i> of the Commonwealth.	Fully vaccinated by 17 November 2021
Tier 1 health care facility	(a) an intensive care unit within a hospital; or (b) a high dependency unit within a hospital; or (c) a respiratory ward within a hospital; or (d) a ward within a high risk regional hospital that has one or more designated respiratory beds; or (e) an emergency department within a hospital; or (f) a COVID clinic; or (g) a COVID-19 vaccination community clinic; or (h) a regional COVID-19 vaccination clinic.	Partially vaccinated by 1 October 2021 Fully vaccinated by 1 November 2021
Tier 2 health care facility	A hospital, including any ancillary facilities located within the hospital building.	Health care workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially vaccinated by 1 November 2021 • Fully vaccinated by 1 December 2021 Health support workers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partially vaccinated by 1 December 2021 • Fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022
Primary health care facility	(a) a general practice; (b) a health clinic, including but not limited to, a medical specialist operated clinic, a nurse operated clinic and an allied health professional ¹ operated clinic; (c) a prison clinic; (d) a detention centre clinic; (e) premises where COVID-19 related testing or COVID-19 vaccination occurs; (f) a community health centre at which a health service is provided to patients; (g) an Aboriginal health service; (h) a service provider ² office or site; (i) a mobile health vehicle; (j) a pharmacy; (k) a human pathology centre (excluding pathology laboratories solely providing research services); (l) a human medical imaging centre (including nuclear medicine); (m) a blood donation centre; (n) a dental surgery or practice;	Partially vaccinated by 1 November 2021 Fully vaccinated by 1 December 2021

Facility	Description	Vaccination requirements
	<p>(o) a research institute where patients attend the premises for research purposes;</p> <p>(p) any other facility that is specified to be a primary health care facility by the Chief Health Officer in writing or any person authorised by him for that purpose,</p> <p>but does not include:</p> <p>(q) a health care facility defined by the Health Worker (Restrictions on Access) Directions (No 3), a residential aged care facility defined by the Residential Aged Care Facility Worker Access Directions (No 4) or a quarantine centre defined by the Access to Quarantine Centre Directions (No 2), as amended or replaced from time to time;</p> <p>(r) a private psychiatric hostel as defined in the <i>Private Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927</i> (WA);</p> <p>(s) a health clinic to the extent that it includes residential premises, at times that a health service is not being provided to a patient at the premises;</p> <p>(t) premises at which a sole primary health care worker is providing a health service solely by telehealth and there is no attendance by a patient at the premises at anytime;</p> <p>(u) disability supported accommodation;</p> <p>(v) a Commonwealth Department of Defence facility providing a health service.</p> <p>1 Allied health includes (amongst other professions) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physiotherapy, podiatry, psychology, dietetics, exercise physiology, rehabilitation counselling, social work and speech pathology.</p> <p>2 Service provider means an individual or entity that provides a health service (e.g. medical, nursing, dental, allied health, mental health, pharmaceutical, health education, drug and alcohol counselling) to patients in the community.</p>	
<p>Tier 3 health care facility</p>	<p>(a) a public health service facility¹, including any vehicle from which public health services are provided; or</p> <p>(b) any premises that are occupied by the Department of Health or a health service provider²</p> <p>1 Health service provided by a health service provider², the Department CEO, or a contracted health entity under a contract or other agreement entered into with the State, or a health service provider.</p> <p>2 Health service providers include North Metropolitan Health Service, South Metropolitan Health Service, East Metropolitan Health Service, Child and Adolescent Health Service, WA</p>	<p>Partially vaccinated by 1 December 2021</p> <p>Fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022</p>

Facility	Description	Vaccination requirements
	Country Health Service, Health Support Services, and PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA.	

I AM WORKING OR STUDYING IN RESEARCH, DO I NEED TO BE VACCINATED?

Research institutes where patients attend the premises for research purposes are primary health care facilities, so workers at the institute who provide health services to patients or other goods and services, and students attending placements at the institute, all need to be vaccinated to enter the institute.

The definitions of health care workers, health support workers and residential aged care facility workers are wide enough to cover researchers and research support staff (whether paid or unpaid). If you are conducting research or doing related work:

- in a hospital or in a hospital building;
- in any COVID-19 clinics or vaccination clinics;
- in a residential aged care facility; or
- in premises occupied by the Department of Health or any health service provider (including for example PathWest or one of the Metropolitan Health Services),

you will be required to be vaccinated to enter those facilities.

You may also be required to be vaccinated to do any clinical research involving patients under a contract with the Department of Health or a health service provider.

ARE THERE ANY EXCEPTIONS?

The State Directions specify ways in which a person will be an 'exempt person', meaning that they will not be classified as a health care worker, health support worker, residential aged care facility worker, or primary health care worker (as relevant).

Some exemptions include if you:

- have a [medical exemption](#) recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (these are limited exemptions);
- have a temporary exemption, for example, you may be eligible for a temporary exemption if you have been vaccinated overseas with a vaccine that has not been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or if you are in an area where vaccine availability is limited and you have made every effort to obtain the vaccine;
- are attending the facility as a patient, or a family or friend of a patient; or
- are an ad hoc volunteer, or a tradesperson or delivery driver (for health care and primary health care facilities, to be exempt tradespeople and delivery drivers must not attend more than once per week, and must not come within 1.5 metres of patients of the facility).

The State has published [Exemption Guidelines](#) applicable to the relevant Directions.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I DON'T WANT TO GET VACCINATED BUT I'M NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AN EXEMPTION?

You will not be able to enter a health care facility, primary health care facility, or residential aged care facility if you are not vaccinated by the relevant deadline and are not an exempt person.

This may impact on your ability to complete the requirements of your course, for example, if you cannot complete a required placement or your research.

You can contact your course coordinator to discuss your options, noting that Curtin cannot arrange alternative placements in sectors where mandatory vaccinations are in effect. The State requirements override any internal Curtin Policy or Procedure.

I GOT VACCINATED OVERSEAS, DOES THAT COUNT?

The State Directions require vaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine [registered](#) by the Therapeutic Goods Administration.

The State Directions also have provision for a temporary exemption from the mandatory vaccination requirement, which may be available if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19 outside Australia with a vaccine that is not registered by the TGA. You will need to apply for a temporary exemption well in advance of the date you need to enter the relevant facility. More information can be found in the applicable [Exemption Guidelines](#).

HOW DO I GET VACCINATED BEFORE THE DEADLINE?

In WA, vaccinations are available from the [Curtin Medical Centre](#) (9266 7345), as well as from vaccination community clinics, general practitioners, and pharmacies. The [Roll up for WA website](#) has details.

WHERE DO I SEND MY VACCINATION STATUS RECORD?

Be aware that downloading your COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate to a device with cloud backup enabled may mean that your certificate is stored on servers overseas and may have privacy implications with the handling of your information.

Services Australia has published guidance on [approaches to accessing your digital certificates](#).

Head to <https://sonia.curtin.edu.au> and select your placement area.

Log in as a student with your Student ID and Oasis Password.

Once logged in, head to the Checks Tab and look for the COVID Vaccination Check.

Complete the required fields of this check and upload your vaccination status record as a PDF document.

If your activity is not registered in SONIA, please email studentvaccsquery@curtin.edu.au with a copy of your COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate if requested by your supervisor or facility manager.

I'M NOT BASED IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, WHAT ARE MY VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS?

Vaccination requirements will be different in different states and countries, and you will need to follow the applicable local requirements.

If you are a student attending a placement, the placement provider will notify you or Curtin of the requirements before your placement. Students completing research or other activities in affected facilities should also be informed of their requirements by their supervisor or the facility manager.