

17 February 2021

Dear Resident or Family Member,

## RE: COVID-19 Vaccinations for Aged Care Residents

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has announced the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) approval of the Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for roll out to high priority Australians.

The Government's plan for [COVID-19 vaccination](#) roll out prioritises vulnerable and higher risk members of the community for vaccination first. Accordingly, residents of residential aged care facilities and staff have been identified as part of the highest priority group for the national vaccine roll out and will be offered free vaccination first.

### What does this mean for residents and families?

- **COVID-19 vaccination will be a free and voluntary Government service available to all residents in their place of residence across all Calvary Retirement Communities.**
- **The vaccine will be made available to all residents in their homes and administered by credentialed vaccinators at each of our residential aged care facilities.**
- **Consent will be required by the resident or person responsible where applicable before the COVID-19 vaccine is administered.** Vaccination will not be administered without prior consent.
- **The 2021 seasonal Influenza vaccination will be offered to residents following COVID-19 vaccination.** There should be a minimum of two (2) weeks between the administration of a COVID-19 vaccine and the administration of the seasonal Influenza vaccine.
- **Specific dates for the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine in each facility are yet to be determined and communicated to Calvary by government.** We will closely monitor government updates and provide more information to residents and families as soon as it becomes available.

### Why should residents and families get vaccinated?

Immunisation is a safe, effective and free way for residents and their loved ones to reduce the risk of the harmful effects associated with coronavirus infection, improving safety and wellbeing.

**Calvary strongly recommends residents and families elect to be vaccinated for COVID-19. Our first priority is the safety of residents, their loved ones, our staff and the broader community.**

COVID-19 can cause serious ongoing health conditions and even death for those more vulnerable to serious health outcomes, such as elderly and frail people. Immunisation is a safe and effective way of protecting you, your family and others in the community.

Being vaccinated is a personal choice. If for whatever reason you are unsure about the COVID-19 vaccine, we recommend discussing the benefits and potential side effects with your doctor.

### Where can I find more information?

**For more information about the COVID-19 vaccination program, please contact the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline on 1800 020 080 or visit the [Commonwealth Department of Health COVID-19](#)**

[vaccination website.](#)

We would like to thank residents and families for your cooperation during this particularly challenging time. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone in our care safe.

More information will be provided to residents and families when it becomes available. If you have any concerns or questions specific to the COVID-19 vaccination or care needs of your loved one, please contact the Manager of your home.

For the latest Calvary COVID-19 updates, please visit: [www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au](http://www.calvarycoronavirusupdates.org.au)

Sincerely,



**Martin Bowles**  
National CEO



**Barb Reid**  
Regional CEO - ACT