

IMPORTANT: SA Retirement Communities Volunteers required to have Seasonal Influenza Vaccination

Date: 12 April 2021
To: All Volunteers, Calvary Flora McDonald Retirement Community
From: Sharon Kendall, Regional CEO - South Australia
Ryan Midgley, General Manager Retirement Communities - SA

As you may already be aware, the South Australian Government's *Emergency Management (Residential Aged Care Facilities No 33) (COVID-19) Direction 2021* requires that any person (including all volunteers) entering a residential aged care facility must be vaccinated against seasonal Influenza (Flu) by no later than 1 June 2021.

How and when will I receive my seasonal Influenza vaccination?

Aged care employees and volunteers, GPs, agency staff, contractor and visitors will be familiar with the requirement for vaccination against seasonal Influenza, first legislated by the Federal Government in 2020.

Calvary is pleased to provide the seasonal Influenza vaccine free of charge to all our volunteers. Together with staff, volunteers will be given the vaccine by credentialed administrators at:

- Calvary Flora McDonald Retirement Community on **27 April 2021** between 8am and 4pm.

What if I have received my COVID-19 vaccination?

While COVID-19 vaccination remains voluntary, the SA Government requires any person entering a South Australian residential aged care facility to have had their 2021 seasonal Influenza vaccine by 1 June 2021.

If you have had your COVID-19 vaccination or plan to have your COVID-19 vaccination, there are some things to consider for your safety and wellbeing:

- The **preferred minimum interval** between a dose of seasonal influenza vaccine and a dose of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is 14 days.
- There is no particular requirement regarding **the order of receiving a dose** of seasonal Influenza vaccine and either the first or second dose of the Pfizer or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

What happens if I am not vaccinated by 1 June 2021?

Consistent with the SA Government Directive, if you are not vaccinated for seasonal Influenza by 1 June 2021, you will not be permitted to enter a South Australian Residential Aged Care Facility.

It is in the best interest of you, your colleagues, and most importantly, our residents, for you to be vaccinated. Once you receive the 2021 seasonal Influenza vaccine, you will be permitted to enter the site as usual.

What if I conscientiously object or have a medical condition that prevents me from being vaccinated?

Calvary respects your right to conscientiously object to the vaccination process. If you have a medical condition that prevents you from being vaccinated, you should notify your volunteers coordinator and the Facility Manager as soon as possible.

As above, you will not be permitted to enter the site without evidence of having received the seasonal Influenza vaccination. However, there may be other ways for you to contribute as a valued volunteer without physically attending the site.

Who can I contact if I need support?

If you have any questions about the seasonal Influenza vaccination, please be in touch with your GP surgery or local pharmacy. For more information, please contact your volunteers coordinator.

Thank you for your patience and understanding and all that you have done and continue to do to keep our residents, their loved ones and your colleagues safe.