

COVID-19 TALKKIT

A communique for all people living with HIV in NSW

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FEEDBACK & COMMENTS

contact@positivelife.org.au



Friday 10 September 2021

In this edition of our COVID-19 Communique, we break down what it might mean for you to be fully vaccinated (two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine) against COVID, how you can prove your vaccinated status, if and [when we might need boosters](#), and [more importantly how this might affect you](#). The [NSW Government's Roadmap out of COVID-19 restrictions](#) outlines some benefits when the state reaches 70% fully vaccinated. It is estimated this will be just after mid-October, when lockdown [restrictions could be relaxed shortly for people fully vaccinated](#).

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine **isn't compulsory** and remains the choice of each person. In this edition we include some details and links for people to understand your rights, especially [for people who remain hesitant about getting vaccinated](#) and what this might mean in practice for employees and employers. [NSW Health](#) will be making coronavirus vaccinations mandatory for all their employees, requiring them to have their first dose by the end of September.

Positive Life has been conducting 'COVID check-ins' by phone with community members currently enrolled in our Housing Support, WorkReady or Ageing Support programs. If you'd like to hear from us at any time, or would like a call please drop us an email on contact@positivelife.org.au or leave a message on (02) 9206 2179 or 1800 245 677. We understand this continues to be a stressful time for many of us. **If a regular 'check-in chat' helps, let us know so we can make sure you're included.**

HOW TO GET PROOF OF YOUR VACCINATION

People who have received both doses of AstraZeneca or Pfizer (fully vaccinated) can get a digital certificate to prove you're fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

The certificate can be downloaded to your smartphone and used similarly to a digital driver's licence. It features a coat-of-arms hologram and includes the holder's name, date of birth and a 'validity tick'.

Currently there's two ways to get this digital certificate. Your Medicare online account through [myGov](#) or the [Express Plus Medicare mobile app](#).

People who are not eligible for Medicare can get an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI) [using the Individual Healthcare Identifiers service \(IHI service\) through myGov](#) to get this digital proof.

Once you've been fully vaccinated, you'll be able to add your COVID-19 digital certificate to your digital wallet (Apple Wallet or Google Pay). [ServicesAustralia has a handy step-by-step process here](#) which shows you how to do this whether you are eligible for Medicare or not.

If you're living with HIV and need assistance navigating this process, call one of our friendly Peer Support Officers/ Peer Navigators on (02) 9206-2177 or email contact@positivelife.org.au.



CAN'T GET PROOF ONLINE OR ON YOUR PHONE?

If you can't get proof online, you don't have a smart phone your vaccination provider can print your immunisation history statement for you.

Call the [Australian Immunisation Register](#) on 1800 653 809 (Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm) and ask for your statement to be sent to you. It can take up to 14 days to arrive in the post.

It's normal to have questions or concerns, and possibly feel a little hesitant about getting a COVID vaccine. When you're looking for more information to answer your questions or allay any concerns you might have, check out this NSW Health webpage to help you make an informed decision – [IS IT TRUE?](#)





If you don't have a COVID vaccination certificate, could you be banned from restaurants, shops and theatres?

June 10, 2021 6:03am AEST



When will I need my COVID vaccine booster shot? And can I switch to a different brand?

Nicholas Wood, University of Sydney



What is life going to look like once we hit 70% vaccination?

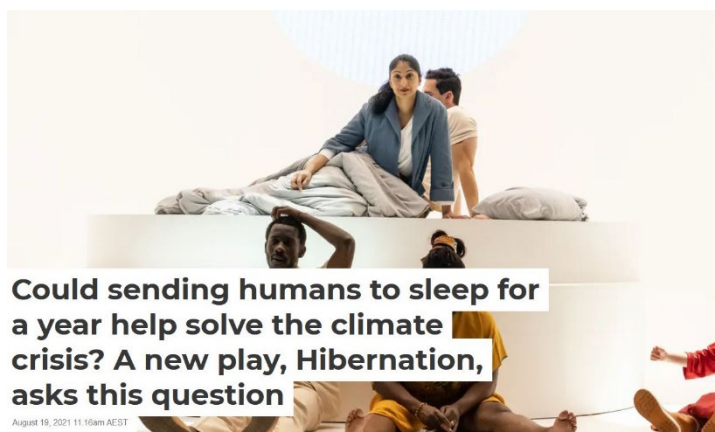
Amalie Dyda, The University of Queensland

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ARE FREE

All COVID-19 vaccination services must be bulk-billed (or free for [non-Medicare eligible](#)). Vaccination providers [cannot charge for the COVID-19 vaccine for Medicare eligible or ineligible patients](#).

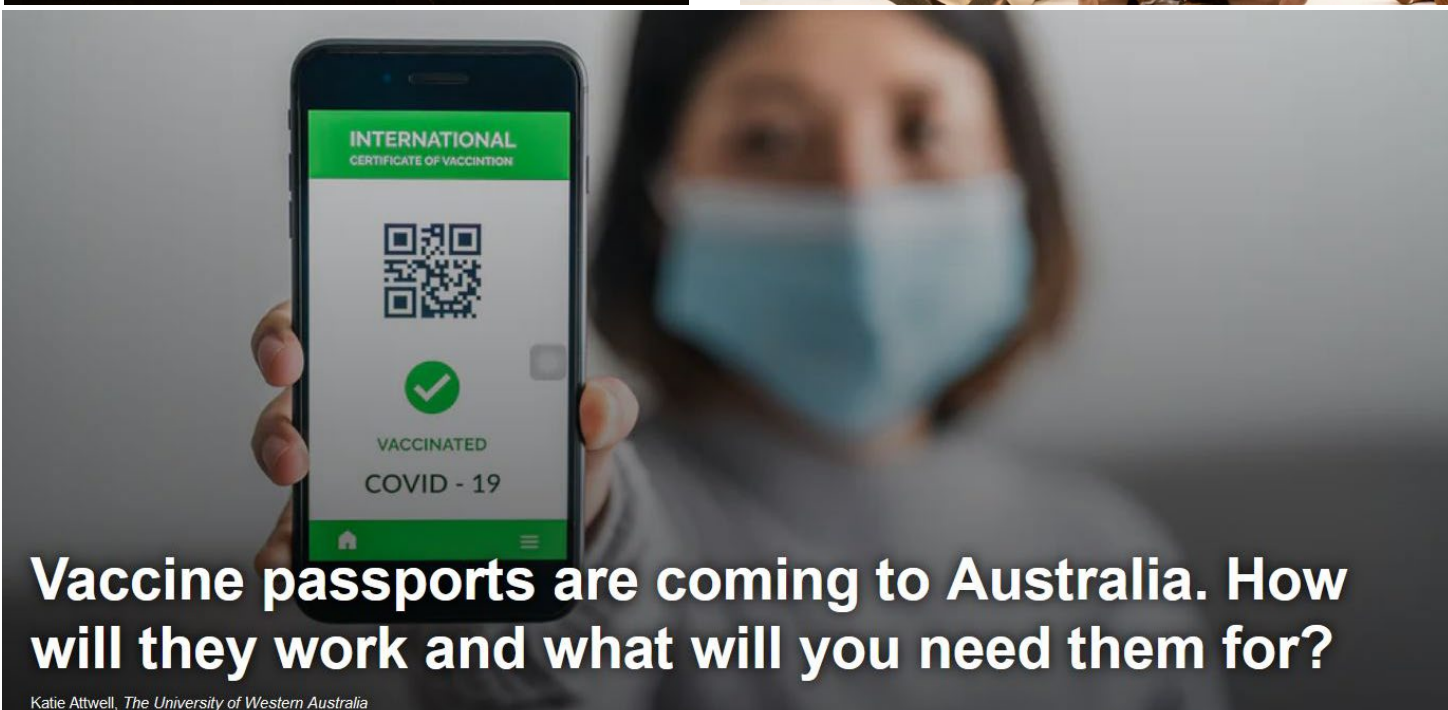
COVID-19 vaccination services for Medicare eligible or ineligible patients cannot be made contingent on any other service or fee, including (but not limited to):

- ✓ Patient registration fees for patients new to a practice
- ✓ Book-keeping or registration fees for the appointment
- ✓ General health checks or
- ✓ Any other service which the practice or practitioner requires before any COVID-19 MBS item.



Could sending humans to sleep for a year help solve the climate crisis? A new play, Hibernation, asks this question

August 19, 2021 11:16am AEST



Vaccine passports are coming to Australia. How will they work and what will you need them for?

Katie Attwell, The University of Western Australia

Household Relief

Covid Hardship
Support Hotline
and Loans without
Interest



Household Relief Frequently Asked Questions

**Call the COVID Hardship Support
Hotline on 1300 121 130
9am–7pm AEST
Monday to Friday.**

MUTUAL OBLIGATION REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of current locations with suspension of mutual obligation requirements. [Visit the JobActive Mutual Obligation Requirement Information webpage](#) for details on which locations are affected.

EXTENSION OF MORATORIUM AND AN INCREASED RESIDENTIAL TENANCY SUPPORT PAYMENT

The [NSW Government has announced an increase to the Residential Tenancy Support Package to up to \\$4,500 per tenancy and an extension to the eviction moratorium](#) until 11 November 2021, giving increased security to residential tenants impacted by COVID-19.

Following the moratorium, for the period **12 November 2021 – 12 February 2022**, transitional measures will apply and will limit when terminations can occur for rental debt accrued during the moratorium.

[The Tenants' Union remains concerned about landlords using 'no grounds' evictions to get around moratorium protections](#), and other impacted tenants who've felt forced to leave when their landlord hasn't responded or agreed to reduce rent.

For more about the extension and support payment, and how this might apply for you visit the Tenants' Union's [COVID-19 Renting Guide](#). For free legal advice, visit [your local Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service](#).

GET IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FROM BEYOND BLUE 24/7



Call 1300 22 4636

24 hours / 7 days a week



Chat online

11am - 12am AEST / 7 days a week



Email us

Get a reply in 24 hours



Online forums

24 hours / 7 days a week

COVID VACCINATION & YOUR RIGHTS

Is it mandatory to get vaccinated for COVID-19 in Australia?

While the Australian Government strongly supports immunisation, it is **not compulsory**. People, parents and carers maintain the right to choose whether to receive a vaccination.

Employers

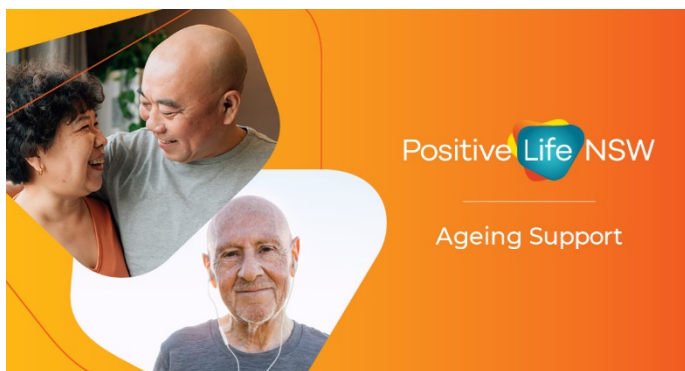
Under WorkHealthSafety (WHS) laws, [employers have a duty to eliminate or if not possible, minimise, so far as is reasonably practicable](#), the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace.

Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) suggests Australian employers could force certain workers to get COVID jab. [Updated advice for employers setting out a four-tier system](#) to determine when such an order would be reasonable.

Can Australian employers make the COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for workers? The federal government says employers will be left to give 'reasonable directives' to their staff on COVID-19 vaccinations. But [what exactly does that mean, and how might it work in practice?](#)

POSITIVE LIFE AGED CARE SUPPORT

Living with HIV in NSW, over 45 years and want a hand to make life a little easier? Call (02) 9206-2177 or 1800 245 677 (freecall) or email contact@positivelife.org.au



COVID-19 VACCINATIONS AND YOUR PRIVACY RIGHTS AS AN EMPLOYEE

The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has a [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) page](#) to assist employees understand how the [Privacy Act 1988 \(Privacy Act\) applies](#) to their personal information relating to COVID-19 vaccinations in the workplace.

The Australian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) offers [a guide about COVID-19 vaccinations and federal discrimination law](#).

If there is no specific law requiring a person to be vaccinated, individuals, businesses and service providers are encouraged to obtain legal advice about their own specific circumstances, and to carefully consider the position of vulnerable groups in the community before imposing any blanket COVID-19 vaccination policies or conditions.

NSW POLICE MOVE TO MAKE VACCINATION COMPULSARY

NSW Police [is moving to mandate the Covid-19 vaccine for all employees](#) who will need to be fully vaccinated by the end of November.

No equipment? No worries!



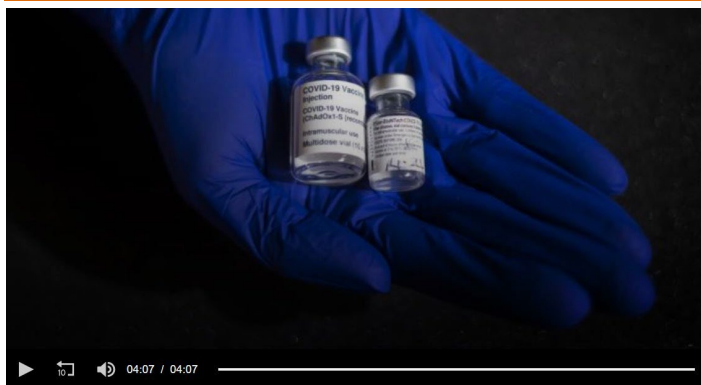
Mail order NSP available NOW

If you're self isolated or quarantined and need injecting equipment, don't put yourself at risk by reusing or sharing equipment. Instead, contact NUAA — we will mail you out however much you need of all sorts of injecting equipment (including speciality gear like wheel filters). Visit our website for more info about how COVID-19 might affect you as a person who uses drugs.

Ph: (02) 8354 7300 or freecall 1800 644 413 | visit nuaa.org.au



MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS FOR COVID-19 VACCINES 'VERY RARE'



By Alexia Attwood on ABC Radio PM

JOBSEEKER APPOINTMENTS

From 9 March 2021, face-to-face appointments recommenced. **This means your job provider can ask you attend appointments in person**, subject to local health advice and state and territory COVID-19 requirements. Providers need to have COVID-19 safe plans in place if they require you to attend appointments or activities in person. [Click here to download a Factsheet](#) outlining both you and your provider's obligations during face to face appointments.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

POSITIVE LIFE TREATMENTS SUPPORT

For all your HIV treatment questions and support, including COVID-19 concerns, call (02) 9206-2177, 1800 245 677 (freecall outside metro) Mon-Fri 9am to 5pm or email contact@positivelife.org.au



Want to talk about
your HIV and health?

Contact a Positive Life Treatments Officer
02 9206 2177 or 1800 245 677 (freecall)

Positive Life NSW

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Editor:

Craig Andrews

Positive Life NSW Communications Manager

communications@positivelife.org.au

Positive Life NSW

Gadigal Country

PO Box 831,

Darlinghurst NSW 1300

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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land that we live and work on, and recognise, respect and value the deep and continuing connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to land, waters, community and culture. We pay our respects to Elders, Past and Present.

Positive Life NSW

The voice of all people living with HIV