

## Position Statement: Paramedic COVID-19 Vaccination

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### Key Statement

The Australasian College of Paramedicine (“the College”) expects all paramedics to take up vaccination against the SARS-CoV-2 virus and associated COVID-19 illness, to protect themselves, their patients and the community.

### Background and Rationale

#### Vaccination is essential for managing COVID-19 risk

The SARS-CoV-2 virus and associated COVID-19 illness represents a real and present public health threat to the communities of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.

Living up to our title of the most trusted profession, it is imperative that paramedics acknowledge their professional obligation to promote and support the health of their patients and the public.

Consistent with this obligation, paramedics must ensure that they provide dispassionate, evidence-informed health information, advice and care that is free from personal opinion or biases (see [Paramedicine Board of Australia Code of Conduct – Section 2](#) and [New Zealand Paramedic Council Code of Conduct](#)).

The College is represented on the National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce and is a member of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium. The evidence is unequivocal: Vaccination provides greater protection against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 illness.

Paramedics, as frontline clinicians, have an increased risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 virus through daily contact with potentially at-risk members of the community.

It is the College's expectation that, unless medically contraindicated, all paramedics take up the opportunity to be vaccinated with an available vaccine approved for use in their jurisdiction.

Vaccination is crucial in not only ensuring their own health, but also in directly contributing to managing the risk of SARS-CoV-2 virus transmission to patients, health colleagues and the community.

The College respects the rights of individuals to form and hold their own opinions; however, there is no place for anti-vaccination messages in our profession, including during practice, where individuals hold themselves out as paramedics in public fora, or on social media.

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*Australian paramedics: See the Paramedicine Board of Australia [September 2021 Newsletter](#) for the Board's reminder on COVID-19 vaccinations for registered paramedics.*

### **Booking your vaccination**

Please check your local state and territory website for directions on how to book your vaccination:

New Zealand COVID-19 <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines>

Australian Capital Territory COVID-19 <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>

New South Wales COVID-19 <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

Northern Territory COVID-19 <https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au/>

Queensland COVID-19 <https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

South Australia COVID-19 <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/>

Tasmania COVID-19 <https://www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/>

Victoria COVID-19 <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

Western Australia COVID-19 <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus>

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### **Additional information on COVID-19 vaccination**

Australian Government - Department of Health website is the official Australian source of accurate, reputable and up to date information.

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

NZ Ministry of Health website is the official New Zealand source of accurate, reputable and up to date information.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines>

Learn about COVID-19 vaccines

- AU: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/learn-about-covid-19-vaccines>
- NZ: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-how-vaccine-works>

About the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/learn-about-covid-19-vaccines/about-the-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccine>

About the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/learn-about-covid-19-vaccines/about-the-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

About the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/approved-vaccines/moderna>

### **Australasian College of Paramedicine**

The College is the peak professional body representing and supporting more than 10,000 paramedics and student paramedics across Australia and New Zealand. ACP champions the role of paramedics in emergency, out of hospital and primary health care and we are committed to enhancing patient centred care. The College is future focused and brings together paramedics from across Australasia to represent, advocate, promote and celebrate the achievements of this important health profession.