



# Position Statement

## COVID-19 Vaccination

**Wednesday 06.10.21**

The allied health workforce is highly trained to provide safe, evidence-based care. As a sector we work across the entire health system and beyond, from tertiary settings through to primary, community and home care.

AHPA is an active member of various national advisory committees informing the response to COVID-19. We understand the importance of preventing severe disease and mortality in vulnerable populations such as the frail elderly, people living with a disability, First Nations communities and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities. Many allied health professionals are also on the frontline and at risk of contracting the virus themselves.

AHPA strongly endorses the national COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign. We support COVID-19 vaccination for all healthcare practitioners and believe all allied health practitioners should be vaccinated for their own protection, and for the protection of the healthcare, aged care and disability systems more broadly.

AHPA supports the evidence-based advice of various expert bodies overseeing the vaccine strategy. We also support the statement by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee concerning vaccinations for healthcare workers and consistency across jurisdictions to reduce the burden on those at border boundaries and the confusion caused by differing regimes and levels of restrictions.<sup>1</sup>

The National Boards strongly encourage all registered health practitioners to have the full COVID-19 vaccination course as scheduled unless medically contraindicated. This is consistent with the National Boards' expectations, as set out in the codes of conduct or their equivalent, that practitioners have a responsibility to participate in efforts to promote the health of communities and meet obligations with respect to disease prevention including vaccination, health screening and the reporting of notifiable diseases.<sup>2</sup> Self-regulating professions are held to similar high standards.

We are pleased that a significant number of allied health professions are now eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccines, and we thank the many who have already responded by working in testing facilities and in treating patients with the virus.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-statement-on-mandatory-vaccination-of-all-workers-in-health-care-settings>

<sup>2</sup> [COVID-19 vaccination position statement](#) (90 KB, PDF), [Word version](#) (246 KB, DOCX)

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**Allied Health  
Professions  
Australia**

1/530 Little Collins St  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
ABN 60 083 141 664

P (03) 9909 7768  
E [office@ahpa.com.au](mailto:office@ahpa.com.au)

[www.ahpa.com.au](http://www.ahpa.com.au)

## About Allied Health Professions Australia

*Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is a collegiate body consisting of 21 national allied health association members and a further 14 affiliate members with close links to the allied health sector. AHPA's members collectively represent over 140,000 allied health professionals who work across the primary, acute and tertiary sectors in Australia.*

*AHPA believes it is vital that allied health professionals are recognised for their work alongside the medical and nursing communities and for their potential to help shape and implement the healthcare system of the future. Supporting allied health professionals and making allied health services accessible will ensure that Australia has an integrated, comprehensive healthcare system that delivers world class care.*

Please visit [www.ahpa.com.au](http://www.ahpa.com.au) for further information about us.