

Consent for COVID-19 Vaccination

Frequently Asked Questions – Parents and Guardians

Who needs a parent or guardian to consent on their behalf?

Currently, there are two groups of people who need a parent or formal guardian to provide consent on their behalf to receive the COVID-19 vaccination:

- **All young people under 16 years of age**
- **Anyone over 16 years of age who does not have capacity to make medical decisions and provide consent for themselves.**

The reason for this is because people who fall into these groups are legally not able to provide *informed consent*. Informed consent is a person's decision, given voluntarily, to agree to a healthcare treatment that is made with the right knowledge and understanding of the benefits and risks of receiving the vaccination.

Can a person who needs their parent or guardian to consent attend the vaccination appointment on their own?

No. The parent or guardian of the person needs to be physically present to confirm the consent at the time of vaccine administration. This is to ensure that the parent or guardian is the person who is consenting to the administration of the vaccination.

What if I cannot attend the appointment as a parent or legal guardian?

If the parent or guardian cannot attend the appointment with the person, they need to nominate another adult to attend the appointment to give consent when completing the online consent during the booking process. They will need to provide the details of the nominated accompanying person so that their identity can be verified on the day of the appointment.

Can I bring my other children to the appointment?

Parents and guardians should only bring to the appointment children who are booked in to receive a vaccination. This is to ensure the safety of all people at the vaccination centre.

What is the process for providing and withdrawing consent?

How do I provide consent?

You will need to provide consent multiple times:

1. **When making the booking.** When booking the appointment for the person, you will be asked to enter your details and provide consent for the person to be vaccinated. If you will not be attending the appointment, you will be asked to provide the name and details of the person (aged 18+) who will accompany the person to the appointment on your behalf.
2. **At the appointment.** At the appointment the parent, guardian or the nominated accompanying person will be asked to provide consent again. This will then be confirmed again with the person being vaccinated.

What if I change my mind and want to withdraw my consent?

You can withdraw consent at any point during the process. If you would like to withdraw consent before the appointment then simply cancel the appointment. If you wish to withdraw consent while at the appointment, let a staff member or vaccinator know at any step of the confirmation process.

Will the views of the person being vaccinated be taken into account?

Yes. The views of the young person or person under guardianship are important and should be considered when making an appointment, as a minor with capacity to consent can refuse treatment.

Can my child get vaccinated without my consent?

All young people under 16 years require a parent or legal guardian to consent to vaccination on their behalf.

My partner and I are separated, I want my child to be vaccinated but my ex does not. Do they have a say at all?

Both parents will generally have full parental responsibility and capacity to consent for their children unless there are formal court orders, directing who can give consent to medical treatment.

What identification do parents and guardians need to bring?

Parents and guardians will need to bring identification for three reasons:

- To confirm their identity
- To confirm the details of the person being vaccinated
- To confirm their relationship as the parent or guardian of the person receiving the vaccination.

What identification should I bring?

You should bring the following to the appointment:

- Your photo ID (e.g. a driver's license or proof of age card)
- A Medicare card for the person being vaccinated
- A photo ID for your child if they have it (e.g. a student card or passport)

Does it matter that my child is on a different Medicare card?

No, just bring the Medicare card for your child.

What if my child doesn't have a Medicare card?

If your child is not currently enrolled in Medicare, you can check their eligibility and enrol at the [Services Australia website](#). If your child does have a Medicare card, please check your [Medicare details are up to date](#) and if you haven't already, consider [setting up your Medicare account online](#).

Will I receive a copy of my child's vaccination?

Once your child has been vaccinated, their vaccination status will be recorded so that you can show proof if required. You will be able to access this record whether you have a Medicare account or not.

- **If you have a Medicare card:** proof of vaccination will be provided in your immunisation history in your Medicare details. You will be able to use Medicare to prove you've been vaccinated.
- **If you don't have a Medicare card:** If you don't have a Medicare card, or are not eligible for Medicare you can get proof that you have had your COVID-19 vaccination by:
 - asking your vaccination provider to print a copy of your [Immunisation History Statement](#) for you, or
 - calling the [Australian Immunisation Register](#) to have an Immunisation History Statement sent in the post. It can take up to 14 days to arrive.