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| Join the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program workforce |
| Information for paramedicsJune 2021 |
| OFFICIAL |

#### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the scope of practice, training and supervision requirements for paramedics wanting to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program in Victoria.

#### Important information

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| * Victoria is committed to working with and supporting the delivery of the Australian Government’s COVID-19 vaccination program.
* Paramedics have been authorised to possess, prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccines under a Public Health Emergency Order (PHEO) issued under Section 22D of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*.
* Free training is available for paramedics wanting to be involved in the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program.
* Completing the training requirements outlined in this document does not qualify participants to administer vaccines other than COVID-19 vaccines
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#### Authorisation and eligibility

#### Clinical role (possess, prepare and/or administer COVID-19 vaccines)

* Paramedics must have successfully completed of all mandatory training (outlined on the following page)
* Must comply with the Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines, and remain up-to-date with changes as they arise <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>
* Specific requirements and conditions are set out in the PHEO, available at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/Short-term-Public-Health-Emergency-Order-Authorisation-for-preparation-and-administration.docx>

**Supervisory clinical role**

* Paramedics with experience in immunisation can also supervise other paramedics. A **Paramedic with experience in immunisation** is a registered paramedic who:
	+ was authorised to administer the influenza vaccine in 2020 to operational staff members of Ambulance Victoria in accordance with PHEO no. 5. published in S210 21 April 2020
	+ has previously completed the immuniser program of study recognised by the Chief Health Officer related to PHEO no. 5
	+ has experience in administering the influenza vaccine
	+ meets all the requirements of the Public Health Emergency Order: Authorisation for preparation and administration – COVID-19 VACCINE.

#### Non-clinical support / administrative role

* Paramedics can participate in the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program in supportive, non-clinical roles without authorisation.
* Free training is available for non-clinical support staff.

## Supervision requirements

Paramedics can possess, prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccines under **‘indirect supervision I**’ of a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner, pharmacist immuniser or **paramedic with experience in immunisation**.

**Indirect supervision I** means that the supervisee must consult with the nominated supervisor, with the nominated supervisor required to always be physically present in the workplace during opening hours and available during those times to observe and discuss the management of clients and/or the performance of the supervisee when necessary.

## Training requirements

The following training programs and clinical competency requirements are essential for all paramedics that are involved in the COVID-19 vaccination program in a clinical capacity: preparing and/or administering COVID-19 vaccines.

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| Training program | Details | Training verification |
| [**National COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program**](https://covid19vaccinationtraining.org.au/login/index.php)<https://covid19vaccinationtraining.org.au/login/index.php> | **Core modules*** COVID-19 introduction
* Handling and storage
* Communication and purpose
* Multi-dose vial (MDV) training
* Documentation and reporting
* Safety and surveillance monitoring and reporting for adverse events following vaccination

**Vaccine-specific modules*** Pfizer / BioNTech
* AstraZeneca
 | User issued with three certificates of completion – one certificate for the core modules, and another for each vaccine specific module. |
| [**Victorian COVID-19 eLearning Package**](https://education-mvec.mcri.edu.au/courses/dh-covid19/)<https://education-mvec.mcri.edu.au/courses/dh-covid19/> | **eLearning modules*** Vaccination procedures
* Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (SIRVA)
* Use of multi-dose vials (MDV)
* Preparing Comirnaty (Pfizer BNT162b2) vaccine

**Practical immuniser simulation*** Consent and communications
* Preparation and handling (including MDV handling)
* Adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) procedures

**Supervised procedures*** Minimum of five supervised vaccination procedures
 | User issued with a certificate of completion through MVEC.  |
| [**Victorian COVID-19 AstraZeneca Supplementary eLearning**](https://education-mvec.mcri.edu.au/courses/covid19az/)<https://education-mvec.mcri.edu.au/courses/covid19az/> | **eLearning module*** Consent process (revised April 2021)
* Recommendations and contraindications of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in adults under 50 years

Training must be completed after the National COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program – AstraZeneca vaccine specific module (listed above) | User issued with a certificate of completion through MVEC |
| [**Clinical skills and capabilities demonstration**](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines)<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines> | **Must be able to demonstrate the following knowledge and skills:*** Interpersonal skills (including consent and communication)
* Preparation and/or handling (including multi-dose vial handling)
* Vaccine administration (where applicable) this includes a minimum of five supervised vaccination procedures
* Adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) procedures
 | Victorian COVID-19 Clinical Skills and Competencies Certificate assessment must be completed by an appropriately experienced and qualified authorised immuniser. |

## Pay and work conditions

Pay rates depends on qualifications, experience, and job roles within the program. This is determined by the health service. Casual loading may also be applicable.

You are encouraged to get your COVID-19 vaccine once you are accepted as part of the COVID-19 vaccination workforce.

## Register to participate

If you are interested in joining the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program, please register via the link below. It is recommended that you complete the above training requirements prior to registering.

[Register your interest now via Torres Health](https://www.torrenshealth.com.au/) <https://www.torrenshealth.com.au/>.

#### More information and resources

* Victorian Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>
* Public Health Emergency Order (PHEOs) and Secretary’s Approval: <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/short-term-public-health-emergency-order-authorisation-preparation-and-administration-covid-19-doc>
* Commonwealth Department of Health COVID-19 information: [health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.health.gov.au_initiatives-2Dand-2Dprograms_covid-2D19-2Dvaccines&d=DwMFAg&c=JnBkUqWXzx2bz-3a05d47Q&r=tLymBe5lFYs3J-OkdFemELauf6j8v0RwX5IGpNSBwLo&m=1aKXThYTUY1v9Q2IayxEEw91zAUf0DnkLmY2MQseCnc&s=xVlaKKeHbVey85JaVyUHHTmx8RP2GxLb41MVUaJshls&e=)
* Victorian Department of Health COVID-19 vaccine information: [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

#### Contact us

For more information on the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in Victoria, contact the Victorian Department of Health by emailing COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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