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| Join the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program workforce |
| Information for pharmacist immunisers, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and internsJune 2021 |
| OFFICIAL |

#### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the scope of practice, training and supervision requirements for pharmacist immunisers, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns/students 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.
* **Pharmacist immunisers are authorised to prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccines** in accordance with requirements set out in the ‘Secretary Approval: Pharmacist Immuniser SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) VACCINE’.
* **Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy interns/students are authorised to prepare COVID-19 vaccines** under a Public Health Emergency Order (PHEO) issued under Section 22D of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*, with specific limitations and conditions.
* Free training is available for all pharmacy workforces that want to be involved in the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program.
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#### Authorisation and eligibility

#### Pharmacist Immunisers

A pharmacist immuniser is a registered pharmacist who has successfully completed an ‘immuniser program of study’ that has been recognised by the Victorian Chief Health Officer and aligns with the National Immunisation Education Framework for Health Professionals.

Pharmacist immunisers must meet all requirements of the ‘Secretary Approval: Pharmacist Immuniser SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) VACCINE’ to possess, prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccines. This includes the supervisory and training requirements as outlined in this document.

For full details see: [GG2021S208.pdf (gazette.vic.gov.au)](http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2021/GG2021S208.pdf) and the [Victorian COVID-19 vaccination guidelines](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines) available at: https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines

#### **Pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and interns**

Registered pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, fourth year pharmacy students and intern pharmacists have been authorised under the PHEO to possess and prepare (not administer) COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with the following training and supervisory conditions outlined in this document.

Fourth year pharmacy students must hold a student registration with Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Aphra) and intern pharmacist must hold provisional registration with Ahpra. In addition, pharmacy technicians, pharmacy students and interns must have completed health service credentialling for aseptic techniques.

For full details see: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/Short-term-Public-Health-Emergency-Order-Authorisation-for-preparation-and-administration.docx> and the Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines available at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>

## Scope of practice and supervision duties and requirements

Table 1 below outlines the clinical roles of each profession, and their supervision duties/requirements.

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| Profession | Clinical role | Supervision duties/requirements |
| Possess & prepare vaccine | Possess & administer vaccine |
| **Pharmacist immuniser** | ✓ | ✓ | Does not require supervision to possess, prepare or administer vaccines. |
| **Pharmacist**  | ✓ | ✗ | Does not require supervision to prepare COVID-19 vaccines. |
| **Pharmacy technician**^ | ✓ | ✗ | **Indirect supervision II\***to be provided by registered pharmacist at a ratio of 1:5 |
| **Pharmacy intern/student** ^ | ✓ | ✗ |

^ must have completed health service credentialing for aseptic techniques

\* **Indirect supervision II** means the supervisee must consult with the nominated supervisor, with the nominated supervisor required to be accessible by phone or other means of telecommunication (such as video chat) and available to attend the workplace to observe and discuss the management of clients and/or the performance of the supervisee when necessary.

**NOTE:** Fourth year pharmacy student/intern involvement in the program will not contribute toward clinical placement hours or supervised practice, nor should it interfere with existing university commitments. Pharmacy students and interns will be employed/contracted by vaccination service providers and paid as per the Pharmacy Industry Award.

#### Site supervisory requirements

COVID-19 vaccination providers must ensure that there are sufficient experienced authorised immunisation staff available on site. This includes pharmacist immunisers, nurse immunisers, nurse practitioners and medical practitioners.

It is recommended that experienced, authorised immunisers have the relevant skills and experience (minimum of 6 months experience and current/ recently completed anaphylaxis management and basic first aid) to perform this duty.

Pharmacy technicians, students and interns must be supervised by a registered pharmacist. Where the authorised pharmacy technician, student or intern has not previously demonstrated practical competence in all authorised vaccination activities, the supervising pharmacist should demonstrate, teach and supervise all authorised vaccination activities, until such a time as the supervisor is confident the technician, student or intern demonstrates practical competence prior to undertaking the authorised vaccination activities.

For further information please refer to the Victorian Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>

## Training requirements

Table 2 below outlines details of each training package, with further detail on requirements for each workforce outlined in table 3 on the following page.

Table 2. Details of COVID-19 training and clinical competencies requirements

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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 of age.

National COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program – AstraZeneca vaccine specific module (listed above) must be completed prior to this supplementary module. | 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. |

Table 3. Training package requirements by profession / role

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| **Profession / role** | **National COVID-19 Vaccine Training Program** | **Victorian COVID-19 eLearning Package** | **Victorian COVID-19 AstraZeneca supplementary eLearning** | **Victorian COVID-19 clinical skills and competencies certificate** |
| **Core modules** | **Pfizer module** | **AstraZeneca module** |
| **Pharmacist Immunisers** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | Strongly recommended | ✗ |
| **Pharmacists** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Pharmacy technicians** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **Pharmacy interns/students** | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

All health professionals participating in the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program must ensure they are up-to-date for all matters relating to training requirements due to emerging information or new COVID-19 vaccines. Please refer to the [Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines) for the most up to date information.

## 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

* Pharmacists that would like further information on becoming a pharmacist immuniser please see: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/immunisation/immunisers-in-victoria/pharmacist-immunisers/pharmacist-immuniser-study-programs>
* 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> and [GG2021S208.pdf (gazette.vic.gov.au)](http://www.gazette.vic.gov.au/gazette/Gazettes2021/GG2021S208.pdf)
* Australian Government 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 <COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

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