

# General Practitioners and Influenza Vaccine Medical Exemptions

As outlined in the [Aged Care Direction](#), from 30 May 2021, everyone entering a residential aged care facility (RACF) must have had the 2021 Influenza vaccine. This includes visitors, facility staff, health care workers, volunteers, students, and others (e.g. cleaners, tradesmen, gardeners, and maintenance staff). This measure is designed to protect vulnerable older Queenslanders.

The Aged Care Direction describes a limited number of exceptions that allow people to enter a RACF without Influenza vaccination:

- A person is within the recommended seven (7) day period before or after a [COVID-19 vaccine](#); or
- A person has a medical exemption from a health care professional, in line with the [Contraindications and precautions](#) for influenza vaccination as outlined in The Australian Immunisation Handbook.

Granting medical exemptions for reasons or issues outside the Australian Immunisation Handbook [guidance](#), such as for conscientious objections, creates inequity, increases the risk to RACF residents, and negatively impacts on the ability of aged care providers to enact the [Aged Care Direction's](#) requirements when they screen visitors.

The only absolute [contraindications](#) to the Influenza vaccines are listed in the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

This guidance clearly sets out the only reasons medical exemptions would be provided, which will assist you in conversations with your patients.

Thank you for your support in helping us care for our RACF residents and staff.