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| Join the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program Workforce |
| Information for paramedicine studentsJune 2021 |
| OFFICIAL |

#### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the eligibility and training requirements for paramedicine students wanting to participate in the COVID-19 vaccination program in Victoria.

#### Important information

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| * Free training is available for all paramedicine students eligible to be involved in the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program.
* Completing the COVID-19 training programs does not qualify participants as an authorised immunisation provider that can administer vaccines other than the COVID-19 vaccines.
* Involvement in the program will not contribute toward clinical placement hours, nor should it interfere with existing university commitments.
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#### Eligibility

Paramedicine students must:

* have successfully completed all units of study from the second year of a Bachelor’s program
* must hold a current student registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra)
* have successfully completed the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination training (see following page)
* comply with all supervision ratios and requirements as set out in the [Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines) (current version at the time of vaccine administration).

Eligible paramedicine students (as per above) are authorised to possess, prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccines in Victoria, under specific requirements and conditions set by the [Public Health Emergency Order (PHEO)](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/short-term-public-health-emergency-order-authorisation-administration-students-covid-19-doc) <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-05/Short-term-Public-Health-Emergency-Order-Authorisation-for-the-administration-students_0.docx>

Further information can be found in the Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines (the Guidelines): <<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>>

## Training requirements

The following training and clinical competency requirements are essential for all emergency authorised paramedicine students 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 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. |

## 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/>.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### 1. Can I participate in the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program?

Yes. Paramedicine students who have successfully completed all units of study from the second year of a Bachelor’s program leading to initial registration with Ahpra as a paramedic, are authorised to prepare, possess and administer COVID-19 vaccines under a Public Health Emergency Orders (PHEO) issued under Section 22D of the *Drugs, Poisons and Controlled Substances Act 1981*.

Paramedicine students (of any year level) may work within the Victorian COVID-19 vaccination program in supportive, non-clinical roles without authorisation. Conditions of employment should be in line with the relevant industrial instrument for that non-clinical role.

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

#### 2. Will I be assessed as competent to perform vaccination activities?

Clinical assessment will be part of the onboarding process of employment. If practical competence is not demonstrated in all authorised vaccination activities within the workplace, the workplace supervisor will demonstrate, teach and supervise all authorised vaccination activities, until such a time as the appropriately qualified vaccination clinic supervisor is confident they demonstrate practical competence, prior to undertaking authorised vaccination activities.

#### 3. Can I administer vaccines other than COVID-19 vaccines?

No. The PHEO and required training only authorises administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

#### 4. Will this go towards my clinical placement?

No. Vaccination work will not count towards clinical placements.

#### 5. Will I be paid to complete the training?

Training is free to complete, and you will not be paid to complete it.

#### 6. Can I prepare and administer COVID-19 vaccines? And under what supervision?

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

**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.

For further information, refer to:

* Ahpra – Information sheet for supervisors, available at: <https://www.ahpra.gov.au/documents/default.aspx?record=WD19%2F28386&dbid=AP&chksum=MEUthhuCdewAsRJ4U6Xgkw%3D%3D>
* Victorian COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines, available at: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>

#### 7. Do I need to be registered with Ahpra?

Yes. All paramedicine students wishing to participate in the program in a clinical role must hold a current Ahpra student registration.

#### 8. Where can I find information on 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.

#### 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) : <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/short-term-public-health-emergency-order-authorisation-administration-students-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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