

# CAA Position Statement COVID 19 Vaccination

May 2021





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**Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) position on COVID-19 vaccination for registered paramedics and ambulance personnel including ambulance volunteers, assistants, technicians and paramedic students.**

Vaccination is a crucial part of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many registered paramedics will have a vital role in COVID-19 vaccination programs and in educating the public about the importance and safety of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure high participation rates.

Registered paramedics who are trained, educated and competent in all aspects of vaccine management and administration and who are authorised under relevant drugs and poisons legislation can administer a COVID-19 vaccine.

Registered paramedics who are authorised to administer COVID-19 vaccines will be required to complete additional training related to the handling and administration of the vaccines, including Government recognised COVID-19 vaccination training program.

Vaccination of registered paramedics and ambulance personnel serves specific purposes, including:

- vaccination will provide paramedics and ambulance personnel with a level of protection in relation to their own health if exposed to the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 at work or elsewhere.
- registered paramedics and ambulance personnel are members of the general community, vaccination will contribute to achieving the highest possible level of immunity across the community, contributing to broader societal safety.



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The CAA strongly encourage all registered paramedics and ambulance personnel including ambulance volunteers, assistants, technicians and paramedic students (particularly those undertaking placements in clinical practice settings) to have the full COVID-19 vaccination course as scheduled unless medically contraindicated.

This is consistent with the AHPRA National Boards' expectations, as set out in the codes of conduct or their equivalent, that registered health practitioners have a responsibility to participate in efforts to promote the health of communities and meet obligations with respect to disease prevention including vaccination, health screening and the reporting of notifiable diseases. Regardless of their own vaccination status, health practitioners must ensure that there are appropriate measures in place in their practice to manage any risk of transmission of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19 to patients, colleagues and the community.

While some health practitioners may have a conscientious objection to COVID-19 vaccination, all practitioners, including students on placement, must comply with local employer, health service or health department policies, procedures and guidelines relating to COVID-19 vaccination. Any queries about these should be directed towards the individual employer, health service, health department and/or education provider for registered students.

Any promotion of anti-vaccination statements or health advice which contradicts the best available scientific evidence or seeks to actively undermine the national immunisation campaign (including via social media) is not supported by the CAA and may be in breach of the codes of conduct and subject to investigation and possible regulatory action.

CAA Member Services have developed social media guidance to help registered paramedics and student paramedics understand and meet their obligations when using social media.

Training Resources - <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-training-program> [www.health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au) is the official site for the latest information on the novel coronavirus pandemic.