



# Vaccination Position Statement

RDAQ recognises that Affiliated Riding for the Disabled Associations (RDAQ Member Centres) have a duty of care to reduce the risk to all people who visit their centres of acquiring vaccine-preventable illnesses.

The nature of the services provided by most RDA Centres means that people may be exposed to the following vaccine-preventable illnesses:

- COVID-19
- Influenza
- Tetanus
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

The Queensland Health [website](#) states that *'The ongoing Delta outbreaks in southern states pose an imminent risk to Queensland and as such we need to get as many Queenslanders vaccinated as soon as possible.'*

Queensland Health recommends that all people are fully vaccinated for all vaccine-preventable conditions. Full details regarding the vaccination schedule for adults and young people can be found at [Schedule Queensland | Queensland Health](#).

RDAQ acknowledges the advice provided by [Safe Work Australia](#) that organisations providing services to vulnerable people should implement a comprehensive occupational vaccination program. Such a program includes:

- a vaccination policy.
- current volunteer vaccination records.
- provision of information about relevant vaccine-preventable diseases to all volunteers.
- a policy for managing vaccine refusal — for example, to reduce the risk of an unvaccinated volunteers transmitting disease to vulnerable people.

It is recommended<sup>1</sup> that organisations take all reasonable steps to encourage non-immune workers to:

- receive the recommended vaccines.
- wear facemasks where social-distancing cannot be maintained.
- be assigned to non-frontline person-centred tasks that reduced the risk of the spread of vaccine preventable illness to others.

[Queensland Health](#) advise that some people with intellectual or developmental disability may:

- be at greater risk of serious illness due to COVID-19 if they have some medical conditions and co-morbidities
- have difficulty understanding and adhering to social distancing, handwashing, and other risk reduction strategies, which increases their risk

---

<sup>1</sup> [Vaccination for people at occupational risk | The Australian Immunisation Handbook \(health.gov.au\)](#)



- not show or be able to communicate early COVID-19 symptoms.

RDAQ urges RDAQ Member Centres to note that the RDA Insurance does not cover illnesses acquired during the delivery of RDA services (refer Appendix A).

Information about how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 can be found at [How to protect yourself and others — coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.qld.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing/coronavirus).

Auslan [COVID19: Information and support for people with disabilities and carers - YouTube](#)

Source:

- A Guide to Work Health & Safety for Volunteer Organisations, SafeWork Aust (accessed 25/10/2021)
- The Australian Immunisation Handbook (health.gov.au), Vaccination for people at occupational risk (|accessed 25/10/2021)
- Immunisation Schedule Queensland, Qld Health (accessed 25/10/2021)