

Ref: A1991450

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**TO: OPERATORS OF RESIDENTIAL AGED CARE FACILITIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

**RE: REQUIRING INFORMATION FROM THE AGED CARE SECTOR**

I write to you in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Major Emergency declared pursuant to section 23 of the *Emergency Management Act 2004* in respect of the outbreak of COVID-19 in South Australia.

As you would be aware, older people are at an increased risk of both contracting COVID-19 and developing a serious illness as a result. In order to protect older South Australians, the State Coordinator has issued a direction placing restrictions on visitors to residential aged care facilities, which applies to all providers of residential aged care in South Australia.

Under the direction, from 1 May 2020, all staff and visitors to a residential aged care facility must have received a 2020 seasonal influenza vaccination. Accordingly, residential aged care providers should take steps to ensure that all staff and volunteers are vaccinated prior to this date.

Under the Act, the Chief Public Health Officer has an important role to play in the protection and promotion of public health. Section 49 of the Act permits the Chief Public Health Officer to require a person to furnish such information relating to public health as may be reasonably required.

Therefore, in the interests of monitoring and protecting the health of older people living in residential aged care facilities, I require that the following information be provided to the Chief Public Health Officer:

- A report on the number of staff and volunteers of the residential aged care facility who have been vaccinated against 2020 seasonal influenza.
- A report on the number of residents of the residential aged care facility who have been vaccinated against 2020 seasonal influenza.

Please be assured that under section 49 of the Act any person who furnishes information to the Chief Public Health Officer as required cannot, by virtue of doing so, be held to have breached any law or any principle of professional ethics. I have attached the relevant extract of the Act for your information.

This information should be sent to the Office for Ageing Well, Department for Health and Wellbeing via [officeforageingwell@sa.gov.au](mailto:officeforageingwell@sa.gov.au) on the template provided. The first report, which should include vaccination records up to and including 5 April 2020, is required by 5pm on 7 April 2020. Subsequent reports must be provided every 14 days thereafter until such a time as I revoke or amend this request, which will be communicated with you.

If you have any questions in relation to this, please contact Cassie Mason, Director, Office for Ageing Well on [cassie.mason@sa.gov.au](mailto:cassie.mason@sa.gov.au) or 8204 2418.

Yours sincerely



**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NICOLA SPURRIER**  
Chief Public Health Officer  
Health Regulation and Protection

2 1041 2020

Attachment 1: Extract – section 49 of the *South Australian Public Health Act 2011*  
Attachment 2: 2020 Seasonal Influenza vaccination reporting template