

## FAQs – Access to COVID-19 vaccinations in Italy

### 1. **Whether/how Australians overseas can access vaccines as part of Australia’s own vaccine roll out plans**

In certain instances, Australians overseas may be able to access vaccines through their resident country’s national vaccination plans. See also point 4 below.

Italy’s vaccination plan is at <https://info.vaccinicoVID.gov.it/>

In 2021, Australia’s vaccination program is likely to focus on domestic needs. This reflects constraints on the supply of doses, specific vaccine storage and handling requirements, and logistic challenges. The Australian Department of Health continues to work across government and with medical and legal experts to examine options.

Information about COVID-19 vaccines is available on the Department of Health website: [health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](https://health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines).

### 2. **Australian Government advice about seeking/receiving a foreign vaccine overseas**

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) assesses the safety, quality and efficacy of medicines, including vaccines, prior to their approval for use in Australia.

The Australian Government cannot provide formal advice on the safety, quality and efficacy of vaccines that have not been assessed by the TGA.

The TGA recognises that there are comparable overseas regulators, including the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the European Union’s European Medicines Agency (EMA). The full list of comparable overseas regulators is available from the TGA website at: [www.tga.gov.au/list-countries-and-jurisdictions-determined-be-comparable-overseas-regulators-cors](https://www.tga.gov.au/list-countries-and-jurisdictions-determined-be-comparable-overseas-regulators-cors)

The TGA has received applications from several companies that have developed vaccine candidates. It is undertaking a rolling review of the data as they become available. Updates on the current status of the review are available at: [www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines](https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines).

### 3. **Impact of vaccine on Australia’s quarantine requirements, outgoing travel ban, etc**

When you **arrive in Australia** you must quarantine for 14 days at designated facilities in your port of arrival, [unless you have an exemption](#). At this time, [vaccination against COVID-19](#) does not change this quarantine requirement. See <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/health/vaccinations>

Up to date information on departure from Australia is available from the Department of Home Affairs at <https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/leaving-australia>

#### **4. Whether Australian citizens in Italy may obtain a COVID-19 vaccine**

- a) Residents in Italy: if you're a resident of Italy, you have the right to access public health care even if you are not an Italian citizen. A prerequisite is to register with the national health service, for which it is necessary to attend the Health Office (ASL - Azienda Sanitaria Locale) nearest to your place of residence. Registering with the national health service through the ASL allows you to choose a doctor (medico di base), and to access the same services as Italian citizens. You will then be able to seek vaccination in Italy in line with Italy's national vaccination plan.

As an example of the information and assistance that your local ASL can provide about services and joining the health system, here is a link to information from ASL 2 in Rome

<https://www.aslroma2.it/index.php/servizi/assistenza-agli-stranieri>

- b) Non-residents: Under the bilateral health care agreement between Australia and Italy, Australian citizens who are visiting Italy as tourists may receive emergency health care for up to six months.

If the six month period lapsed during the COVID-19 crisis, the Italian Government has confirmed that health cover under the bilateral agreement continues to apply until 31 January 2021, or when the current declared State of Emergency expires.

We are liaising with the Italian authorities to determine whether - and how - non-resident Australians in Italy should best access the national vaccination plan.

More information:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/reciprocal-health-care-agreements/when-australians-go-overseas/about-reciprocal-health-care-agreements/visiting-italy>

[Assistenza ai cittadini dei Paesi extra UE in Italia \(salute.gov.it\)](https://www.salute.gov.it/assistenza-ai-cittadini-dei-paesi-extra-ue-in-italia)

An example of information and assistance that your local Health Office (ASL - Azienda Sanitaria Locale) can provide about services and joining the health system from ASL 2 in Rome is at <https://www.aslroma2.it/index.php/servizi/assistenza-agli-stranieri>