



Enquiries to: Ms Bronwyn Nardi  
State Director  
COVID-19 Vaccination  
Taskforce  
Telephone: 3708 5490  
File Ref: C-ECTF-21/21539

Queensland Health

Dr Brett Dale  
Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Medical Association Queensland  
PO BOX 125  
KELVIN GROVE QLD 4059

Email: [b.dale@amaq.com.au](mailto:b.dale@amaq.com.au)

Dear Dr Dale

**RE: Notifying adverse events following COVID-19 vaccination, including pericarditis/myocarditis**

I would like to thank you and your members for your ongoing support with the COVID-19 vaccination rollout across Queensland. It is encouraging to see the progress we are making to ensure that the vast majority of our population is vaccinated against this persistent disease.

As the range of vaccines and vaccination locations expand across Queensland, it is timely to remind vaccination providers of their obligation under the Public Health Act 2005 to report serious, unexpected or uncommon adverse events following immunisation (AEFI).

International data has recently been released detailing the incidence of myocarditis/pericarditis in younger age brackets related to the Moderna vaccine. The weekly summary of Yellow Card reporting in the United Kingdom for 21 October 2021 reports a rate of 44 incidents of suspected heart inflammation per million doses of Moderna Vaccine in the 18-49 year age group as compared to 18 incidents per million for Pfizer/BioNTech COVID - 19 Vaccine. While these side effects are rare, it is important that all AEFIs, including suspected peri/myocarditis, are reported to assist with vaccine safety surveillance in Queensland and Australia of these new and emerging mRNA vaccines.

These rare cases of myocarditis/pericarditis typically occur within 10 days of vaccination, particularly after the second dose and are more common in those younger than 30 years of age. I ask that clinicians remain alert to the signs and symptoms of cardiac inflammation in those recently vaccinated, investigate clinical evidence accordingly and report any adverse events. Any efforts your organisation can undertake to promote this to clinicians would be greatly appreciated.

The surveillance of adverse events following COVID-19 immunisation in Queensland is currently managed by the Vaccine Command Centre (VCC). All AEFIs are sent to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) by the VCC and serious AEFIs are forwarded to the relevant Public Health Unit (PHU) for further investigation and follow up as required. AEFI information and forms can be accessed and completed online or printed and emailed to [COVID\\_AEFI@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:COVID_AEFI@health.qld.gov.au). TGA reports on vaccine safety are available at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines>.

Clinicians can promote COVID-19 vaccination safety by

- Reporting adverse events following immunisation
- Providing clinical information to PHUs and the VCC if requested
- Communicating with the vaccine recipient to ensure follow-up has occurred
- Seeking advice from relevant specialists/public health units with regard to future COVID-19 vaccinations.

Should you or any clinician wish to discuss a severe AEFI involving hospitalisation following a COVID-19 Vaccination, contact your local PHU: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact/public-health-units> or the VCC on telephone 3608 5960 or via [COVID\\_AEFI@health.qld.gov.au](mailto:COVID_AEFI@health.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

Dr Peter Aiken  
**Queensland Chief Health Officer**  
**Queensland Health**  
22 November 2021