



Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Ref No: MC24-010114

Ms Elizabeth Hart
elizmhart@gmail.com

Dear Ms Hart,

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 June 2024 to the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Mark Butler MP, requesting sources for information contained within the letter from the Chief Medical Officer and Aged Care Safety and Quality Commissioner to Board Chairs of Residential Aged Care Providers. The Minister has asked me to reply.

The Australian Influenza Surveillance Report 2023 End of Season Summary at www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-12/aisr-2023-national-influenza-season-summary.pdf (page 11), provides information on Influenza vaccine effectiveness, <https://www.health.gov.au/influenza-vaccination/questions> including the following statement *'For those who were vaccinated, the vaccines reduced people's risk of being hospitalised from influenza by 68%. The vaccine also reduced the need to visit a GP because of influenza by 64%'*. This information is also summarised on the Department of Health and Aged Care website at www.health.gov.au/influenza-vaccination/questions.

The Australian Immunisation Handbook at <https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/covid-19> provides information and references to supporting evidence on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness, including the statement *'While COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness data continues to emerge, COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be effective against hospitalisation (reducing the risk by 71-77%), and against ICU admission (by 73%)'*.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Genevieve'.

Genevieve Donnelly
Assistant Secretary, Access, Engagement and Compliance Branch

17 July 2024