

# Q FEVER VACCINATION

## FACT SHEET

### What is Q Fever

- Q Fever is a disease caused by bacteria that is spread to humans from wild and domestic animals, mainly cattle, sheep and goats.
- It can cause a severe flu-like illness and long-term health problems.

### Who should be vaccinated

*Q Fever vaccine is recommended for people aged 15 years and older who are at an increased risk of infection. These include:*

- *Abattoir workers*
- *Farmers*
- *Stockyard workers*
- *Shearers / Wool sorters*
- *Animal transporters (of high-risk animals such as cattle, camels, sheep, goats and kangaroos)*
- *Veterinarians / veterinary nurses / veterinary students*
- *Professional dog and cat breeders*
- *Agricultural college staff and students*
- *Wildlife and zoo workers who work with high-risk animals*
- *Animal refuge workers (including those working in animal shelters and boarding facilities)*
- *Laboratory workers who handle veterinary specimens or work with *C. burnetii**
- *People who handle linen soiled by animal products*

### Who should not be vaccinated

- Those with a known allergy to egg proteins
- Pregnant women
- Children under 15 years of age
- Those with weakened immune systems

*If you belong to one or more of those groups above and considering vaccination, speak with your GP or care provider to discuss your options.*

### What to consider before vaccination

- *You must be tested (blood test and skin test) before you can receive the vaccine as people who have previously had Q Fever infection or the vaccine, are at risk of developing a severe reaction.*
- *Allow two GP visits to complete both pre-vaccination screening (including a blood test and a skin test) and vaccination. These visits should be 7 days apart.*

### What to consider after vaccination

- *Allow 15 days after vaccination before starting work in an at-risk environment.*
- *Keep the record provided by the GP in a safe place as you may be asked for it at a later date, particularly if you change jobs as your new employer will need this evidence.*



For more information about Q Fever please scan the QR code.