



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

Keep your disability workforce up to date by circulating this alert widely in your organisation

# Disability Provider Alert

5 April 2023

### Top up your COVID-19 protection campaign

The Government's communication for COVID-19 continues to focus on:

- preventive behaviours
- keeping up to date with vaccinations and
- use of treatments.

It promotes the precautions needed to protect those more vulnerable, including people with disability. You will see the campaign on social media, website content, media engagement, and through stakeholder and community networks.

The Department of Health and Aged Care's "Top Up" campaign launched on 2 April across several channels. It highlights how important boosters are to protect against severe COVID illness.

View the [campaign materials](#) at [health.gov.au/TopUp](https://health.gov.au/TopUp).

### COVID-19 resources for people with disability – Winter Planning 2023 Stakeholder kit

This stakeholder kit has information and resources to support disability providers and organisations that deliver services to people with disability. The kit will help communicate the continued importance of preventive behaviours to mitigate the risks posed by COVID-19, leading up to, and during winter. It will help you locate shareable information, including links to videos and factsheets.

You can get the [kit](#) from the Disability Gateway under COVID-19 support.

### COVID-19 Vaccination In-Reach Services

Recently, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommended a 2023 COVID -19 booster dose for adults. The Department of Health and Aged Care will support residential disability accommodation sites to source vaccination providers. Sites should aim to administer booster doses before June 2023 where eligible.

The Department is working with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) across the country to communicate with disability sites about the booster roll out. PHNs will contact sites using a staged approach. This will prioritise those who received in reach services in previous rollouts with the most overdue for a booster dose first. Adults are eligible if their last COVID-19 dose or confirmed infection (whichever is the most recent) was 6 months ago or longer.

PHNs will help sites to source primary care vaccination options locally in the first instance, including in-reach services provided on site. Primary care providers, such as General Practitioners (GPs) and Pharmacists will mostly administer COVID-19 vaccinations for disability populations, including those in accommodation settings. Primary care is well placed to be the principal providers of COVID-19 vaccinations. New providers continue to come online and revised off-site vaccination incentive payments are available to GPs and Pharmacies from February 2023.

If primary care is not able to meet demand to administer COVID-19 vaccinations in these settings, the Vaccine Administration Partners Program (VAPP), will have some capacity to deliver COVID-19 in-reach clinics.

If you have not heard from your local PHN and you need help to arrange a COVID-19 booster service provider, you can find the contact details of your local PHN [here](#).

If you have any other enquiries about the 2023 COVID-19 booster, contact the [COVID-19 vaccine disability team](#).

## COVID-19 Text Message Campaign

Disability Support Pension, Carer Payment and Carer Allowance recipients will receive a text message in coming weeks from the Australian Government to offer help from the Disability or Carer Gateway with the COVID-19 2023 booster vaccine.

The Disability Gateway helps people with disability, and their families to find the support they need in Australia, including COVID-19 information and support to book vaccines. Call the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787, Monday to Friday, 8AM to 8PM AEDT or visit [www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au/).

Carer Gateway provides a free Australia-wide, dedicated carer support service to all carers, including providing COVID-19 information and support to book vaccines. For more information, call Carer Gateway on 1800 422 737 Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm weekdays or visit [www.carergateway.gov.au/covid-19](http://www.carergateway.gov.au/covid-19)

## Support for people with disability, providers, carers and families

Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787** - open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

Department of Health and Aged Care website at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on **1800 020 080**. People with disability, their families and carers should choose Option 5, disability workers should choose Option 4.

For information in a language other than English, choose Option 8. This is a free service.

The Translating and Interpreting Service is also available on **131 450**.

For people who are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

Don't miss the latest news and updates about COVID-19 and other health matters – follow [the Department of Health and Aged Care on Facebook](#).