
**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response
to COVID-19 for People with Disability
Meeting 4 July 2023 – Summary of Outcomes**

The Department of Health and Aged Care (the department) provided an update on communications actions from previous meetings, including:

- the communications working group's consideration of ways to better reach families of people with disability with messaging about COVID-19 vaccination, and
- a market research project on how people with disability respond to communications on COVID-19. The department will present findings from this project when the Committee meets in August.

Richard Percy, acting Assistant Secretary of the department's Public Health and Surveillance Branch, provided a COVID-19 and influenza epidemiological update. Decreased hospitalisations, ICU admissions and COVID-19 associated deaths suggest that Australia is nearing the end of its current COVID-19 wave. Influenza cases are approximately 25% lower than last year. Most influenza case notifications have been for people aged 5-19 years, however severe outcomes from influenza are more common in older people.

The department's COVID-19 Vaccine Program Division outlined its current activities to support vaccination in people with disability. These include:

- connecting disability accommodation providers to primary care vaccine providers,
- updating information on accessible clinics in the health [Service Finder](#), through which people can book a COVID-19 vaccination
- working with the Department of Social Services, the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) and the National Disability Insurance Agency, and
- developing information sheets on vaccination pathways for people with disability. The Committee's feedback was also sought on two draft information sheets.

The NDIS Commission presented on:

- provider responsibilities to support NDIS participants to access vaccination, and
- how it supports and enforces provider compliance.

The Committee discussed the:

- accessibility of primary care vaccination services for people with intellectual disability
- people with disability who need access to home-visit vaccination services who do not live in disability accommodation settings
- disability support workers' understanding of COVID-safe behaviours and their role in supporting access to vaccination.

The department's Health Economics and Research Division provided an update on COVID-19 data for people with disability.

Members requested a further discussion on eligibility criteria for COVID-19 oral treatments.

NEXT STEPS

The department will:

- circulate a summary of activities to support access to COVID-19 vaccination for people with disability
- update information sheets on vaccination pathways for people with disability based on feedback provided by Committee members
- discuss eligibility criteria for COVID-19 oral treatments at a future meeting.