



COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability Provider Alert

4 August 2023

COVID-19 vaccination is important

COVID-19 is still a serious threat to some Australians, including people with disability.

We know that vaccination is one of the best ways to protect against severe illness from COVID-19.

There are still many opportunities to increase vaccination rates in disability populations.

The latest advice and other information from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) can be found [here](#)

Resources about COVID-19 boosters

The Department of Health and Aged Care has developed [resources](#) about booster doses.

Share these resources with your clients and staff to help them learn why COVID-19 boosters are important and how to book a vaccination.

You can also share:

- [Easy Read resources](#) about COVID-19 vaccination
- The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance's [practical guide](#) to support people who may experience difficulties during vaccination.

COVID-19 boosters can be given at the same time as the annual flu vaccination. Resources about getting the flu vaccination are on the Department's [website](#).

How to get the 2023 COVID-19 booster

It is important that people with disability in residential accommodation settings can get COVID-19 boosters.

If you provide live-in disability residential accommodation, a primary care vaccination service can visit your facility if you cannot use a community-based service. You can choose which doctor or pharmacy.

Contact your [Primary Health Network](#) (PHN) for help finding primary care vaccination options, including for services provided on-site.

People can find a clinic and book their COVID-19 booster using the [Health Direct Service Finder](#).

If a person needs help making a COVID-19 vaccine booking, they can SMS "Hey EVA" to 0481 611 38. A trained call agent from the National Coronavirus Helpline will call them to help book their COVID-19 vaccination.

For any other questions about the 2023 COVID-19 booster, email the Department's [COVID-19 Vaccine - Disability team](#).

Report: Lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic

The Department of Health and Aged Care engaged Nous Group to develop a report on the lessons learned by the Advisory Committee. This report details what the committee learned on the health emergency response to COVID-19 for people with disability.

It is now available on the Department's [website](#).

COVID-19 oral treatments for people with swallowing difficulties

The Department of Health and Aged Care has developed an [information sheet](#) about COVID-19 oral treatments for people with swallowing difficulties.

People with swallowing difficulties (and their supporters) should discuss options for consuming COVID-19 oral treatments:

- with their doctor, before they get sick, when discussing eligibility and if these medicines are suitable for them, and
- with their pharmacist at the time of prescription.

Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant

The Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant Opportunity Guidelines are now online at [Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant | Community Grants Hub](#)

The Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant opportunity provides reimbursement to National Disability Insurance Scheme providers, both registered and unregistered, including sole traders, to cover payments to permanently employed and casual staff who deliver close personal support, are unable to attend work due to a COVID-19 infection and have insufficient or no sick leave.

The payment will provide support towards the costs associated with leave from 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023.

Support for people with disability, providers, carers, and families Disability Gateway 1800 643 787, open 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

Department of Health and Aged Care website at 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 3.

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](#).