



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Disability Provider Alert

13 October 2023

COVID-19 is still a health risk for people with disability

COVID-19 is still around and a threat to people with disability. Some people with disability have health conditions that put them at greater risk of bad outcomes including death from COVID-19.

For the best protection against serious illness or death from COVID-19, people with disability should get all recommended doses for their age or individual health needs. COVID-19 vaccine doses are important to maintain protection.

To find out about eligibility for a COVID-19 dose:

- visit www.health.gov.au, or
- talk to a healthcare provider.

Some vaccination services can visit people at home if they cannot travel to the service.

To book an appointment, go to the [service finder](#), [Disability Gateway](#), or use the [EVA \(Easy Vaccine Access\)](#) call back service.

Additional 2023 COVID-19 dose advice

In September 2023, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) provided further recommendations about who should get an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose in 2023 (an additional dose for highest risk people). The full [ATAGI statement](#) is on the Department of Health and Aged Care website (www.health.gov.au).

Key points:

- All adults aged 75 years or older are **recommended** to get an additional 2023 COVID-19 dose if 6 months have passed since their last dose.
- The following adults should **consider** an additional 2023 COVID-19 dose if it has been 6 months since their last dose, after talking to their healthcare provider:
 - all adults aged 65 to 74 years,
 - adults aged 18 to 64 years with **severe immunocompromise**.

All adults for whom ATAGI recommended a COVID-19 vaccine dose in [February 2023](#), and have not yet had one, are encouraged to get their dose as soon as possible.

COVID-19 vaccine information flyers

The Department of Health and Aged Care has published two flyers on its website about the 2023 COVID-19 booster and an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose for highest risk people, including how to book a vaccination appointment:

- For [disability service providers](#) and
- For [people with disability, their carers and families](#).

These can be used electronically or in print.

COVID-19 stakeholder kit for disability service providers

An updated stakeholder kit of COVID-19 information and resources is available from the Disability Gateway. The kit is designed to help organisations continue to communicate the importance of preventive behaviours to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and includes videos and factsheets.

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

Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant

The second submission period of the [Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant](#) is **now open** for applications on [GrantConnect](#).

NDIS providers will be eligible for reimbursement under this grant if they make a payment to disability workers who:

1. deliver close personal support to NDIS participants,
2. have lost hours due to a COVID-19 infection, and
3. have insufficient or no sick leave.

Available funding is at a flat rate of:

- \$450 per worker, where the worker lost at least eight hours and up to and including 20 hours of work, and
- \$750 per worker where the worker lost more than 20 hours of work.

Applications are due on **6 November 2023** for payments providers have made to workers for hours lost between **1 July 2023 and 30 September 2023**.

Information about eligibility, how to apply, and a comprehensive set of questions and answers are on [GrantConnect](#).

Information for workers in English and nine other languages, is available at the [Disability Worker COVID-19 Leave Grant](#) website.

If you have questions about the grant, please contact Support@communitygrants.gov.au.

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

The Translating and Interpreting Service is 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](#).