

COVID-19 vaccinations in 2024: Disability Service Provider update



Topping up COVID-19 protection

COVID-19 is still in the community and can be dangerous for people with disability.

Protection provided from the COVID-19 vaccine decreases over time. Vaccination in 2024 gives additional protection against severe illness from COVID-19.

The National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance has shared research about the effectiveness of the COVID vaccines: https://www.ncirs.org.au/recent-covid-19-vaccination-highly-effective-against-death-caused-sars-cov-2-infection-older.

Recommendation

In 2024, all adults can consider one or two COVID-19 doses depending on their age and health. This means:

- Adults aged 65 and over, or between 18 and 64 who are severely immunocompromised, are
 eligible to receive a booster dose every 6 months based on their individual health needs and
 recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccination every 12 months.
- Adults aged over 75 are recommended to receive a vaccination every 6 months.
- All other adults are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination every 12 months.
- A useful tool to assess individual requirements can be found at: <u>COVID-19 booster eligibility</u> checker | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care

More information can be found in the Australian Immunisation Handbook

It is safe to have COVID-19 and annual flu vaccines at the same time.



Your support is important

Vaccination combined with COVID-safe behaviours are the most effective tools in keeping people safe from serious illness.

As a disability service provider, your support is crucial in ensuring people with disability are vaccinated against COVID-19 if they choose.

You can:

- Ask your local Primary Health Network for help finding suitable vaccine providers, including onsite vaccinations if needed.
- Arrange a visit from a Commonwealth COVID-19 vaccination service if you can't use other primary care vaccination pathways.
- Support your staff to get vaccinated alongside residents during in-reach vaccination services.

Need Help?

If you have any questions about COVID-19 vaccinations, contact the COVID-19 vaccine disability team on: DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@Health.gov.au | For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit the Department of Health and Aged Care website at www.health.gov.au