



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Disability Provider Alert

18 July 2024

2024 COVID-19 vaccine advice and recommendations

In 2024, all adults can consider one or two COVID-19 vaccine boosters depending on their age and health status.

The COVID-19 vaccine protects against severe illness and death, but this protection reduces over time. This means regular vaccinations are important for those most at risk of serious illness, particularly older adults and those with severe immunocompromise.

Timing of COVID-19 vaccine boosters by age group and risk status

Age	With severe immunocompromise [#]	Without severe immunocompromise [#]
≥ 75 years	Recommended every 6 months	
65-74 years	Recommended every 12 months and eligible for a dose every 6 months	
18-64 years	Recommended every 12 months and eligible for a dose every 6 months	Eligible for a dose every 12 months
5-17 years	Eligible every 12 months	Not recommended
<5 years	Not recommended	

[#]for details refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#)

People can use the Department's [online eligibility checker](#) to work out if and when they are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. This does not replace advice from health professionals. People should still speak with their health professional about COVID-19 vaccination.

It is important to remember when considering a COVID-19 vaccination:

- you do not need to wait a minimum time between your last COVID-19 infection and having your recommended COVID vaccination.
- it is safe to get your COVID-19 and annual flu vaccines at the same time.

How to get a COVID-19 vaccination

People can find a clinic and book their COVID-19 vaccination using the [Health Direct Service Finder](#), or the [Disability Gateway](#).

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

If you provide live-in disability residential accommodation, a primary care vaccination service can visit your facility if you cannot use another service. Contact your [Primary Health Network](#) for help finding primary care vaccination options, including in-reach services provided on site.

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

COVID-19 vaccine information flyers

The Department of Health and Aged Care has published two flyers about the 2024 COVID-19 boosters, including how to book a vaccination appointment:

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

An [Easy Read flyer](#) is also available in a print version and an accessible version that can be uploaded and has the necessary accessibility features for screen readers.

COVID-19 stakeholder kit for disability service providers

The [COVID-19 Stakeholder Kit for 2024](#) has information and resources to support disability service 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 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 oral treatments for people with disability

Oral antiviral treatments are most effective when started as soon as possible, and must be started within **5 days** of symptoms starting or testing positive for COVID-19.

People who are at higher risk of severe illness are encouraged to talk to their doctor or nurse practitioner **before** they get sick to discuss if a COVID-19 treatment will be right for them and develop a COVID-19 plan. This will assist in getting quick access to treatment when needed.

[Eligible people](#) who test positive to COVID-19 can get these medicines from their local community pharmacy on a prescription from a medical practitioner or an authorised nurse practitioner, in accordance with the [PBS](#) requirements.

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 the prescriber at the time of prescription.

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](#).