Disability Provider Alert

June 2025

# 2025 COVID-19 vaccine advice and recommendations

In 2025, all adults can consider a COVID-19 vaccine dose 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 doses by age group and risk status

| Age | Timing |
| --- | --- |
| ≥ 75 years | With or without severe immunocompromise - recommended every 6 months. |
| 65-74 years | With or without severe immunocompromise - recommended every 12 months and eligible for a dose every 6 months. |
| 18-64 years | With severe immunocompromise - recommended every 12 months and eligible for a dose every 6 months.  Without severe immunocompromise – eligible for a dose every 12 months. |
| 5-17 years | With severe immunocompromise - eligible every 12 months.  Without severe immunocompromise - not recommended. |
| <5 years | With or without severe immunocompromise - 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 that:

* you do not need to wait a minimum time between your last COVID-19 infection and having your recommended COVID-19 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, Disability and Ageing has published two flyers about the 2025 COVID-19 vaccines, including how to book a vaccination appointment for:

* disability service providers and
* people with disability, their carers, and families.

# COVID-19 stakeholder kit for disability service providers

The COVID-19 Stakeholder Kit 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, Disability and Ageing website at <https://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, Disability and Ageing on Facebook.