



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Disability Priority groups for COVID-19 Vaccination Program: Phase 1b

Phase 1b will commence on 22 March and includes some people with disability, carers, disability workers and volunteers. This is based on recommendations by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

Most individuals in Phase 1b will find vaccination sites through the COVID Vaccine Information and Location Service, make appointments either through this site or the provider's own booking system (including your GP) and attend a vaccination site to be vaccinated.

GP Respiratory Clinics, state vaccination clinics, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and some GPs will commence providing COVID-19 vaccines from Phase 1b.

Australians can access their immunisation history statement through Medicare for proof of vaccination, both digitally and in hard copy, if required.

Immunisation statements can be viewed on an individual's Medicare online account or via the Medicare app.

Individuals who are Medicare ineligible can ask the vaccine provider or another health professional to print a statement of vaccination. Alternatively, they may call Services Australia to request a copy of their immunisation history. Details of the COVID-19 vaccination will be recorded on an individual's immunisation history statement following each dose.

Phase 1b: People with disability with underlying medical conditions

Who is eligible?

Immunocompromising conditions

- Haematological diseases or cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma resulting in immunocompromised

- Solid organ transplant recipients who are on immune suppressive therapy – recommend discussion with specialist regarding optimal timing of vaccination
- Bone marrow transplant OR chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy recipients OR those with graft versus host disease – recommend discussion with specialist regarding optimal timing of vaccination
- Non-haematological cancers - diagnosed within the past 5 years OR on chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy or targeted anti-cancer therapy (active treatment or recently completed) OR with advanced disease regardless of treatment
- Adult survivors of childhood cancers
- Chronic inflammatory conditions requiring medical treatments – **including**: Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Crohn’s disease, ulcerative colitis, and similar who are being treated with Disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or immune-suppressive or immunomodulatory therapies. **Generally not inclusive** of people living with osteoarthritis, fibromyalgia, myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome or similar non-immunocompromising inflammatory conditions
- Primary or acquired immunodeficiency – **including** congenital causes of immunodeficiency and HIV/AIDS

Other underlying conditions

- Chronic renal (kidney) failure with a eGFR of <44mL/min - **Does not include** mild-moderate chronic kidney disease
- Heart disease – **including** Ischaemic heart disease, valvular heart disease, cardiomyopathies and pulmonary hypertension
- Chronic lung disease - **including** Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung disease. **Does not include** Mild or moderate asthma
- Diabetes
- Severe obesity with a BMI $\geq 40\text{kg/m}^2$
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological conditions – **including** Stroke, dementia, Multiple sclerosis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson’s disease, cerebral palsy. Generally not inclusive of migraine or cluster headaches
- Poorly controlled blood pressure (defined as two or more pharmacologic agents for blood pressure control, regardless of recent readings)
- Those living with significant disability requiring frequent assistance with activities of daily living – **including** Down Syndrome, muscular dystrophy, traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, severe intellectual disability
- Those with severe mental health conditions – **including** schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder affecting ability to adhere to public health measures.

Proof of eligibility for underlying medical conditions

- For individuals attending their usual GP, the clinic's records may be relied upon as evidence
- MyHealth Record
- A referral from GP or treating specialist
- Alternative medical records, including:
 - a printout of your medical history as recorded in your clinical records;
 - a printout of your chronic disease care plan; a discharge summary from a hospital or other medical facility; or
 - a valid script or medication prescribed to treat one or more of the relevant medical conditions
- Where none of these are available, individuals may complete an *Eligibility Declaration Form*

Phase 1b – people with disability attending centre-based services

Who is eligible?

- People with disability attending centre-based services such as:
 - day programs
 - respite care
 - supported employment

Where

- Phase 1b sites by appointment

Requirements

- ID card or letter from employer/centre-based support provider
- Where this is not available, individuals may complete an *Eligibility Declaration Form*

Phase 1b – Disability Workers

Who is eligible

- All workers providing in-home and community disability and aged care, including centre-based care
- Workers who regularly have face to face contact with those receiving aged care or those with a disability in phase 1a or 1b, including aged care assessment workforce, those conducting regulatory activities and advocacy services

Where

- Phase 1b sites by appointment

Requirements

- Proof of occupation (ID card, letter from employer or *Eligibility Declaration Form*) will be required to demonstrate eligibility

Phase 1b – Elderly people

Who is eligible

- People 80 years and over
- People 70 years and over

Where

- Phase 1b sites by appointment

Requirements

- All standard forms of identification (drivers licence, passport) will be accepted
- For individuals attending their usual GP, the clinic's records may be relied upon as evidence.
- Other forms of accepted evidence include:
 - My Health Record
 - Government issued documents with date of birth (e.g. Centrelink, Medicare, Department of Veterans Affairs)

Phase 1b: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Who is eligible?

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 55 years and over

Where

- Phase 1b sites by appointment

Requirements

- As for general population for age eligibility
- Self-identification as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander at the time of vaccination, which may be verbal

Phase 1b: Carers of people in Phases 1a or 1b

Who is Eligible?

- Carers (paid and unpaid) of:
 - a resident of an aged care facility or residential disability accommodation who is eligible under phase 1a
 - a person 70 years and over who is eligible under Phase 1b
 - a person with a specified underlying medical condition who is eligible under phase 1b
 - a child with a specified underlying medical condition who would be eligible in Phase 1b but cannot be vaccinated due to age restrictions
- Disability and aged care support volunteers who provide support to people in their homes, respite care, educational, employment, leisure and/or residential settings, including those providing transport and advocacy services.

Who is not eligible?

- Family members of people with disability who are not carers.
- Carers of people not eligible under Phases 1a or 1b.

Where

- Phase 1b sites by appointment

Requirements

- Carers documentation or
- proof of occupation (ID card or letter from employer/centre-based support provider).
- Where none of these are available, individuals may complete an [Eligibility Declaration Form](#).