



Australian Government



# Disability Provider Alert

2 March 2021

The COVID-19 vaccination program was rolled out to a small number of disability residential accommodation sites last week.

People with disability received the Pfizer vaccine and some staff were able to receive the vaccine where additional vaccines were available on-site.

The Department of Health is seeking feedback from the disability providers where the vaccinations occurred to ensure lessons learnt are incorporated and continuous improvement is part of the roll-out.

Consultations with key stakeholders were also held last week to assist the Department of Health to inform the Phase 1a roll-out to the disability sector over the coming weeks.

## Phase 1a Disability Sector Webinar – 4 March 2021

A webinar will be held for disability providers and peak bodies to provide up-to-date information on the Phase 1a COVID-19 vaccine roll-out to the disability sector.

This webinar will be chaired by Professor Michael Kidd AM, with other panellists Ms Lisa Peterson (Department of Health, Assistant Secretary, Aged Care and Disability - Vaccine Taskforce), Dr Jeffrey Chan (Senior Practitioner, NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission) and Mr Eric Thauvette (CEO, Hartley Life Care).

Ms Peterson will provide an overview of the Phase 1a COVID-19 vaccine roll-out to the disability sector. Dr Chan will provide information on informed consent and the principles of supported decision making. Mr Thauvette will provide an overview of the Phase 1a COVID-19 vaccine roll-out from the perspective of a disability provider, including what to prepare before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

To tune in and ask questions live this Thursday, please click on the following link.

Webinar link: <https://publish.viostream.com/app/s-ddwhikz>

Thursday 4 March

3.30pm – 4.30pm (AEDT)

This webinar will be Auslan interpreted.

People don't need to register beforehand and they can be anonymous when asking a question if they wish.

The webinar will be published on the Department of Health's website so people can watch it after the event when it's convenient.

## Disability Provider COVID-19 Vaccine Readiness Toolkit available this week

The Department of Health will this week be publishing a toolkit to support disability providers to get ready for the vaccine. The toolkit includes:

- Information on what to expect on COVID-19 vaccination day at your disability residential accommodation (information for people with disability, families and carers)
- Checklist for planning and delivering vaccinations
- Information on roles and responsibilities for COVID-19 vaccination at disability residential accommodation sites
- Information on site readiness requirements for vaccination sites
- Consent guidance material

A link to the toolkit will be provided in the next Disability Provider Alert.

## Vaccine Eligibility Checker

The Department of Health has developed an online tool to assist people to understand the phased rollout.

[Vaccines Eligibility Checker \(healthdirect.gov.au\)](https://healthdirect.gov.au)

The Department of Health is aware that many people, including disability providers, may still have questions about the specific details around priority groups. We are working hard to clarify these details as soon as possible.

## Phase 1a: COVID-19 Vaccine - Data Collection

Thank you to those who have responded to the previous request to provide data to support Phase 1a of the COVID-19 vaccines national rollout.

If you have not provided data or need to update your data, the data collection form will now be available on an ongoing basis to allow for updating of critical information to support the continued COVID-19 vaccines national rollout planning for residential disability accommodation settings eligible in Phase 1a.

If you provide residential disability accommodation and have not yet responded, please provide all the requested information for each of your sites by using the [online form](#)

Further information on the scope of this request can be found in the [original provider alert](#)

Your response to this request remains critical to ensure people in priority groups can be offered the vaccines at the earliest opportunity and to avoid any impact on the timing for vaccinations to be administered at your sites.

If you have already responded no further action is required.

## More information

Australian Government, along with state and territory government helplines have information on how people with disability can access the vaccine when it becomes available.

Call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080, and ask for an interpreter if needed

Visit the Department of Health's [Information for people with disability about COVID-19 vaccines webpage](#). This page will be updated regularly.

Visit the [Safe Work Australia website](#) to find Work Health, and Safety contact information in your jurisdiction.