



Australian Government



Disability Provider Alert

16 April 2021

The Australian Government is currently considering changes in the COVID-19 vaccine rollout based on new advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

National Cabinet is meeting in the week of 19 April 2021 to provide further guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine roll out. We will provide more information when it becomes available to provide a clear understanding of the vaccine roll out for 1a and 1b going forward.

People with disability living in residential accommodation of two or more people and staff, eligible under phase 1A of the vaccine rollout, are a priority group and will receive the vaccine that is most appropriate for them.

The new advice from ATAGI is impacting on the pace at which we can schedule vaccinations in residential accommodation settings. The Department of Health appreciates the patience of people with disability and disability providers during this period of change whilst the logistics of coordinating the vaccine roll out are finalised.

People with disability who have had the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca without any serious adverse effects can safely be given the second dose, including adults under 50 years.

We are still encouraging providers to do preliminary planning about how they will manage the vaccination process at their sites. This includes continuing conversations with people with disability and workers about:

- the rollout of the vaccination program and the benefits of getting the vaccine, and
- getting consent and having the required conversations with family members, carers and/or substitute decision-makers if relevant.

The consent form for people with disability that has been used to date is suitable for the Pfizer vaccine. You do not need to get consent again. However, additional consent may be required for the AstraZeneca vaccine. An updated form is available [online](#).

The Pfizer vaccine – Easy Read is available on the Department of Health website.

The AstraZeneca vaccine – Easy Read is currently being updated and will be available on the Department of Health website soon.

Additional vaccination options for Phase 1a

In addition to the in-reach vaccinations, people with disability and workers eligible in Phase 1a and 1b are still able to have the vaccine at participating:

- General Practices;
- Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Services; and
- GP-led respiratory clinics.

To book go to [The COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#).

If you are under 50, information about local clinic locations that have access to Pfizer are currently being updated. Please be patient this may take some time.

For more information call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 1800 020 080.

COVID-19 Vaccine and the Flu Vaccine

Advice on the flu vaccine timing with the COVID-19 vaccines is outlined below.

The ATAGI advises the minimum time between receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine and any inactivated influenza vaccine (the flu vaccine) is 14 days.

This means there needs to be at least a 14 day gap:

- between the flu vaccination, and
- a first or second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

The timing of your COVID-19 vaccination clinics and flu vaccine clinics will need careful consideration to maintain this minimum 14 day gap. The flu vaccinations for residents and staff should occur:

- 14 or more days before their first Pfizer dose;
- 14 or more days after their second (and final) Pfizer dose;
- 14 or more days before or after their first AstraZeneca dose; or
- 14 or more days before or after their second (and final) AstraZeneca dose.

For more information about COVID-19 Vaccine and the Flu Vaccine go to this link on the Department of Health's [website](#).

Resources

1. [ATAGI – COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for people with immunocompromise](#) is available on the Department of Health website.
2. [ATAGI statement](#)
3. [Department of Health Secretary and Chief Medical Officer statement](#)
4. [TGA statement](#)