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**Advisory Committee on Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) for  
People with Disability  
Meeting No. 13: 1 December 2020  
Key Outcomes**

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The Department of Health (the Department) updated members of the Advisory Committee on the COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy:

- The Australian Government released the COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Strategy in August 2020.
- The Australian Government has secured 134 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccines in varying amounts from the following providers:
  - AstraZeneca (the Oxford vaccine)
  - University of Queensland
  - Pfizer
  - Novavax.
- Australia is a member of the COVAX Facility, a global collaboration to invest in COVID-19 vaccines and ensure they are distributed equitably. Through the COVAX facility, the Australian Government has made an upfront payment to secure enough doses for up to 50 per cent of the Australian population to be vaccinated. This is the maximal coverage allowed under these arrangements.
- COVID-19 vaccines will be free for all Australian citizens, permanent residents and most visa-holders. This is outlined in the Australian COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.
- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) COVID-19 Working Group provides advice to the Minister for Health on the immunisation program for COVID-19 vaccines. ATAGI will determine priority groups for the vaccine, based on how severely the virus affects them.
- Plans for distributing the vaccine is taking place in collaboration with states and territories. This includes identifying ideal locations for priority groups to access the vaccine.

The Advisory Committee also discussed other topics including, but not limited to:

- the inclusion of people with disability in the priority groups for the vaccine
- accessibility of vaccination sites for people with disability
- data collection throughout the COVID-19 vaccine dissemination period, in particular for people with disability
- the potential to use COVID-19 vaccination visits as an opportunity to screen people with disability for other health conditions
- concerns around availability of disability support workers as restrictions ease
- reports of people with disability still being subjected to lockdown in disability accommodation settings in NSW and Queensland, even though restrictions have eased.

Each state and territory representative gave an update on current actions in their jurisdiction to support people with disability.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Advisory Committee to establish a Vaccine Working Group to provide advice to the COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Taskforce by 24 December 2020. This will take place out of session.
- The department to set up a meeting between Department of Social Services and Advisory Committee members to discuss disability workforce concerns.