



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Disability provider alert

12 July 2021

Vaccinations for disability workers

National Cabinet agreed to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee's (AHPPC) advice encouraging residential disability support workers to have their COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible.

National Cabinet strongly encourages all disability support workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect their own health and the health of the people for whom they are caring.

In August 2021, following redoubled efforts to encourage uptake of COVID-19 vaccines, including by giving disability support workers priority for appointments and improving communications to the sector, AHPPC will consider mandating vaccination for disability workers who support NDIS participants in high risk disability residential settings, to have had at least their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine by 31 October 2021.

Access to vaccines for disability workers

Disability workers are eligible and encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. There are many options available to disability workers to be vaccinated, these include:

In-reach

Where Commonwealth vaccination providers are providing in-reach for residents of disability accommodation, staff on shift can receive the Pfizer vaccine, if they choose to do so. Other staff can access the vaccine through the excess dose policy, where excess doses are available.

State and territory clinics

Residential disability accommodation workers can get a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at state and territory-run mass vaccination clinics. Refer to the [eligibility checker](#) for available clinics in your state and territory.

Primary care clinics

Disability workers can access either an AstraZeneca or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at:

- a general practice (More than 1,300 general practices will begin administering Pfizer vaccines from July 2021)
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service
- Commonwealth Vaccination Clinic (GP respiratory clinics)
- Community pharmacy

Refer to the [eligibility checker](#) for available clinics in your state and territory.

Sonic 'pop' up Pfizer clinics for disability workers under 60

Disability workers under 60 years can book an appointment at dedicated vaccination clinics, run by SONIC Healthcare in Sydney, New South Wales.

The Sydney clinics are:

- Blacktown: open from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week
- Campbelltown: open from 8am to 6pm, seven days a week
- Macquarie Park: open from 2pm to 10pm Monday to Friday, and 8am to 6pm Saturday and Sunday.

Appointments can be made via the [Sonic Healthcare vaccinations website](#).

Access to vaccines through community pharmacy

On 22 April 2021, National Cabinet agreed that states and territories may incorporate community pharmacies into their roll-out plans in rural and remote areas.

On 7 June 2021, 49 community pharmacies in regional Queensland were the first to begin administering AstraZeneca vaccines following a proposal from the Queensland Government. Additional community pharmacies in regional and rural areas in Queensland will be on-boarded over the coming weeks and will commence vaccinating from late-July.

Following further proposals from State Governments, it is anticipated that proposed suitable pharmacies will start vaccinations in July:

- the Northern Territory (15 pharmacies) from 12 July 2021
- Western Australia (49 pharmacies) from 12 July 2021
- New South Wales (20 pharmacies) from 19 July 2021
- Victoria (six pharmacies) from 19 July 2021
- South Australia (67 pharmacies) from 19 July 2021.

You can find participating community pharmacies are in the [eligibility checker](#).

Disability Gateway

The Disability Gateway is a starting point to help people with disability and their family, friends and carers to find information and services across Australia.

It can connect you to relevant supports and resources for areas of life such as employment, education, aids and equipment and money. It is also free, accessible and easy to use for people of all ages. The Disability Gateway can help – call 1800 643 787 or visit disabilitygateway.gov.au.



Disability Gateway

Restrictive practices and COVID-19 vaccines

The **NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission** regulates and oversees the use of restrictive practices with NDIS participants.

The use of a physical or mechanical restraint to enable a participant to receive a vaccination is likely to constitute a regulated restrictive practice.

The decision to use a regulated restrictive practice needs careful clinical and ethical consideration, taking into account a person's human rights and the right to self-determination.

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has more information on **informed consent, preparing for the vaccine, and restrictive practices**.

Any further questions on restrictive practices for NDIS participants should be directed to Behaviour Support at the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission on 1800 035 544 or behavioursupport@ndiscommission.gov.au.

Social post

The below social media post is available for you to distribute through your channels. Accompanying images are attached to the email that was sent to you, or can be accessed on the provider alert edition page [at this link](#).

Facebook

Caption: It's important you get your second dose of the same type of COVID-19 vaccine unless you had a serious reaction to the first dose. The two doses work together to boost the immune response to ensure long-term protection against COVID-19.

To learn more about the importance of receiving two doses, visit:

Link: <https://www.health.gov.au/.../is-it-true-do-people-have...>

Twitter

Caption: It's important you get your second dose of the same type of #COVID19vaccine unless you had a serious reaction to the first. The two doses work together to boost the immune response to ensure long-term protection against #COVID19

Link: To learn more visit: <https://health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/is-it-true/is-it-true-do-people-have-to-receive-two-doses-and-do-they-have-to-be-the-same-type-of-covid-19-vaccine-for-it-to-be-effective>

Resources to support people getting vaccinated

The Department of Health encourages disability providers to have vaccination resources available in **Easy Read** format and in **other languages** for people getting vaccinated. These resources cover all aspects of the vaccination process including preparing for COVID-19 vaccination and the period after the COVID-19 vaccination. You can download and print these from the Department of Health website.

For more information call the National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccination helpline on 1800 020 080.