



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# Disability provider alert

5 July 2021

## Council for Intellectual Disability: Ricky talks to Dr Rita about COVID-19 vaccines

The Council for Intellectual Disability has produced a video where Ricky, who has an intellectual disability, discusses COVID-19 vaccines with Dr Rita. Dr Rita answers questions that Ricky, and others with intellectual disability, may have about the vaccines. Captions are included in the video.

More COVID-19 resources are available through the [Council for Intellectual Disability website](#).

The Department thanks the Council for Intellectual Disability for allowing us to share its resources.

We look forward to sharing more videos and stories of people with disability sharing their COVID-19 vaccination experience. We will include them in future Disability provider alerts. If you have a story that you would like to include in the alert, send an email to the [Vaccine Taskforce team](#).

## Who can receive which vaccine?

Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the following:

- Pfizer is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for adults under 60 years of age
- People aged 40-59 are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination and can receive the Pfizer vaccine. Alternatively, they can choose to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine with their informed consent.
- People aged 16-39 who fall under a priority group are also eligible for COVID-19 vaccination and can receive the Pfizer vaccine. The priority groups include:
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
  - Quarantine and border workers and their household contacts
  - Aged care and disability care residents and staff
  - Healthcare workers
  - People with a specified underlying medical condition, with significant disability or who are NDIS participants

- Carers of people with a specified underlying medical condition, with significant disability or who are NDIS participants
- Critical and high-risk workers (including people working in the areas of defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing)
- Essential outbound travellers who have an Australian Border Force (ABF) travel exemption where the travel exemption letter states they are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination
- Temporary visa holders who are currently in Australia and are approved for return travel to Australia via the travel exemption process managed by the ABF.
- Adults under 60 years of age may still choose to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine if they have weighed up the benefits and risks. Adults under 60 should be fully informed about TTS as a rare but serious side effect before receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine and are encouraged to consult their GP.

Individuals can find clinic locations for the vaccine that match their personal circumstances through the **COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker**.

## Assistance for providers helping NDIS participants in supported independent living access the COVID-19 vaccination

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) has added a **new temporary support**. This is to help NDIS participants in supported independent living (SIL) to access the COVID-19 vaccination.

From 26 May 2021, the NDIA started offering SIL providers that support NDIS participants to attend an offsite location to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. This is as a one-off payment, and can help participants to have their COVID-19 vaccination at their GP or another offsite location like a vaccination hub.

Participants in SIL can discuss with their providers how to best access the COVID-19 vaccination.

The \$150 is an all-inclusive price that allows providers to organise the best approach to vaccinate participants offsite. This may include organising the following:

- administration to arrange vaccination appointments including seeking participant consent
- transport both ways in a COVID-safe manner
- appropriate staff to accompany participants to and from the appointments, including remaining with them during the waiting time after the vaccination.

SIL providers that have taken a participant to their first COVID-19 vaccination appointment before 26 May 2021 can access this support. However, the provider must facilitate subsequent COVID-19 vaccination appointments. This is to ensure the NDIS SIL participant receives the full two-dose course of the vaccine during the time that support is available.

SIL providers can claim this one-off support once the NDIS participant in SIL receives all required doses to become fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

SIL providers can claim funds by directly invoicing the NDIA. The \$150 is not claimed from the participant's NDIS funds.

When claiming the \$150, SIL providers must invoice the NDIA within 28 days of the COVID-19 vaccination.

The NDIA may ask providers to supply evidence that the vaccination took place. Please keep records of vaccination dates, location etc.

The need for this support to continue will be reviewed by 30 November 2021.

The NDIA website has more information about how [SIL providers can claim for this support](#).

## Participating GP clinics administering Pfizer

The Australian Government has fast-tracked the transition of general practices to administer the Pfizer vaccine. More than 1,300 general practices have been engaged to begin administering this month. General practices will support access to Pfizer in areas with limited access to Pfizer hubs – i.e. in regional, rural, and remote areas.

The first group of 500 will start from the week of 5 July 2021, and the remainder in subsequent weeks. The [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#) has a list of participating practices. Here you can also find rolling updates to show Pfizer points of presence over coming weeks as sites transition.

## COVID-19 vaccination services in residential aged care, residential disability, and an individual's place of residence

On 14 June 2021, the Government announced a new COVID-19 Medicare Benefits Schedule Item. This is to allow for a flag-fall fee for GPs and other medical professionals who undertake COVID-19 vaccination services in a residential aged care facility, residential disability facility settings or an individual's place of residence. This flag-fall will support GPs to be able to vaccinate those who cannot attend a clinic in person. However, undertaking home visits remains a decision of each individual practice. Please discuss this with your GP clinic.

## Mandatory vaccinations for aged care workers

The Department of Health acknowledges that some disability workers also work in residential aged care. The most recent announcement from National Cabinet on 28 June 2021 may have implications for some people who work across both sectors.

On 28 June 2021, National Cabinet agreed that the COVID-19 vaccination of residential aged care workers will become mandatory by mid-September 2021, and all residential aged care workers must have received at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by this time.

The National Cabinet agreed that COVID-19 vaccinations are to be mandated for residential aged care workers as a condition of working in an aged care facility through shared state, territory and Commonwealth authorities and compliance measures.

If you work in residential aged care you will need to comply with their respective state or territory public health orders.

All disability workers are strongly encouraged to have a COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself, other colleagues and the people with disability you support.

## Disability support worker meeting

The Department of Health hosted a disability worker meeting on Thursday 17 June 2021. The meeting was recorded and is available on the [Department's website](#).

The Department of Health website has further resources to answer questions about [COVID-19 vaccines](#). There are resources for [disability workers](#), [people with disability](#) and [disability service providers](#).

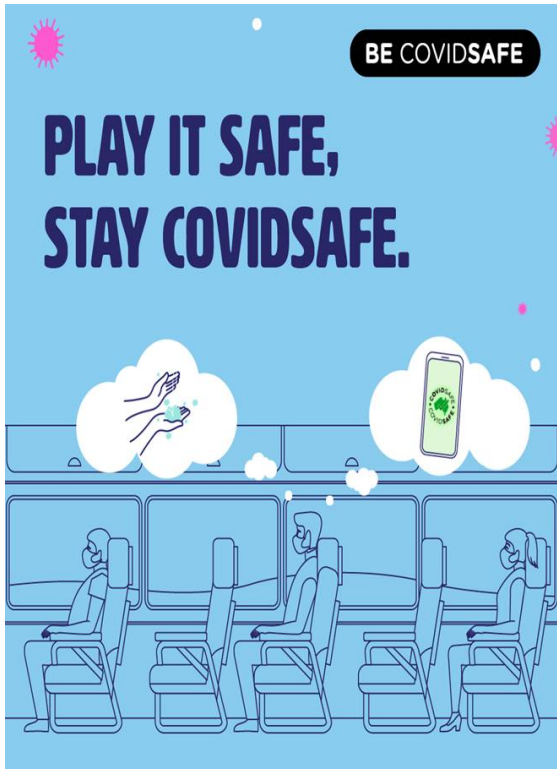
The National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline is also available if you need information about COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines. Call 1800 020 080.

## Auslan videos on COVID-19 vaccines

New Auslan videos are available on the [Department of Health website](#). The videos include information on where to get vaccinated, information on thrombosis and (TTS), providing consent, the AstraZeneca vaccine, and the Pfizer vaccine.

## Social post

The below social media post is for you to distribute through your channels.

Post	Link
<p><b>Facebook</b></p> <p>Everyone can help build a COVID safe Australia.</p> <p>It's important to continue to practise good hygiene to prevent the virus from spreading and to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for added protection.</p> <p>Learn the important steps you can take at <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19</a></p> <p><b>Twitter</b></p> <p>Everyone can help build a #COVIDSafe Australia.</p> <p>It's important to continue to practise good #hygiene at all times to prevent the virus from spreading &amp; to receive the #COVID19 vaccine for added protection.</p> <p>Learn the important steps you can take at <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19</a></p> <p><b>LinkedIn</b></p> <p>Everyone can help build a COVID Safe Australia.</p> <p>It's important to continue to practise good hygiene at all times to prevent the virus from spreading and to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for added protection.</p> <p>Learn the important steps you can take at <a href="https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19">https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/how-to-protect-yourself-and-others-from-coronavirus-covid-19</a></p> <p>#COVIDvaccines #COVIDSafe #COVID19 #hygeine</p>	

Post	Link
<p><b>Instagram</b></p> <p>Everyone can help build a COVID Safe Australia.</p> <p>It's important to continue to practise good hygiene at all times to prevent the virus from spreading and to receive the COVID-19 vaccine for added protection.</p> <p>Learn the important steps by clicking the Health Website link in our bio.</p> <p>#COVIDvaccines #COVIDSafe #COVID19 #hygeine</p>	

## 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.**