
Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) for People with Disability – Extraordinary Meeting 20 July 2021

Key Outcomes

The Department of Health (the Department) held an extraordinary meeting of the Advisory Committee to:

- hear from Lieutenant General Frewen, Co-ordinator General for Operation COVID-Shield, and
- provide an update on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and vaccine communications people with disability and the disability sector.

The Department's updates covered:

- vaccination rates among people with disability living in disability accommodation and disability support workers
- current vaccination channels for people prioritised in phase 1a of the rollout, and
- the development and revision of communications products for people with disability and the disability sector.

The Advisory Committee discussed:

- the need for more effective messaging on vaccine access for disability support workers and prioritisation of vaccine access for this cohort
- concerns about vaccine access for First Nations Australians with disability living in rural and remote communities, and non-NDIS participants
- accessibility issues when booking vaccination appointments for people with low vision
- the need for evidence on the efficacy of measures to prioritise vaccination for people with disability and disability support workers, and
- the need for sedation among some people with disability to support COVID-19 vaccination.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will:

- follow-up on efforts undertaken to provide the vaccine for First Nations Australians living in rural and remote communities, and
- explore options for data collection on the effectiveness of measures to prioritise vaccination of people with disability and disability support workers.

Victoria will look into accessibility issues when booking vaccination appointments online for people with low vision.

The Advisory Committee will consider approaches to sedation or alternative strategies to support COVID-19 vaccination at its next meeting scheduled for 3 August 2021.