
**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus
(COVID-19) for People with Disability
Meeting 28 September 2021 – Summary of Outcomes**

The Department of Health (the Department) provided updates on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for people with disability and disability support workers, including:

- vaccination rates among:
 - NDIS participants, and
 - disability workers who have undergone NDIS worker screening
- data availability on vaccination status of people with disability
- responses to the Committee's comments on the plan to accelerate vaccination of people with disability and disability support workers, and
- key issues being considered in relation to the mandating of vaccination for disability workers.

The Advisory Committee:

- provided comments on the proposed updates to the acceleration plan,
- requested the publication of further data on vaccination rates among people with disability, and
- agreed to develop a consensus statement outlining its position on mandatory vaccination for disability support workers.

The Advisory Committee also discussed:

- comments on the interpretation of vaccination data and its implications for targeting of communications and vaccination efforts
- contact tracing limitations in areas with significant community transmission
- the need for guidance on managing risks in areas reopening with significant community transmission
- difficulties arranging GP home visits to vaccinate people who cannot leave home
- targeted efforts to increase in-reach vaccination rates in:
 - supported residential settings
 - assisted boarding houses
 - juvenile detention facilities, and
 - prisons
- the need for more localised actions and messaging to improve vaccine uptake, and
- learnings from successful vaccination campaigns.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will:

- put forward the Advisory Committee's position on mandatory vaccination for disability workers to the AHPPC
- seek an update from NSW on vaccination rates in prison and juvenile detention centres, and
- invite a public health physician to the next meeting of the Advisory Committee to provide input on contact tracing and infection control measures in areas with significant community transmission, including as jurisdictions move to open up
- include a targeted discussion on assisted boarding houses and supported residential settings on the agenda for the next meeting

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on 5 October 2021.