
**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus
(COVID-19) for People with Disability
Meeting 12 October 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:

- the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation's:
 - consideration of vaccine booster shot policy
 - recent recommendations on the use of a third primary vaccine dose for people who are severely immunocompromised, and
 - advice on the use of sedation to support COVID-19 vaccination prepared for the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC)
- vaccination rates among National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants and disability workers who have undergone NDIS worker screening
- recent communication activities targeting cohorts with lagging vaccination rates, and
- the formation of a working group to provide advice on vaccine communications for people with disability and their supporters.

The Department and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission provided updates on the consideration of mandatory vaccination for disability support workers.

The Advisory Committee requested the publication of the recently developed Vaccine Acceleration Plan for NDIS Participants and Workers or a summary of the document.

The Advisory Committee also discussed:

- reports of fraudulent vaccine certificates, particularly in NSW
- consideration of people with disability in vaccine booster shot policy
- concerns around the complexity of communications about third primary vaccine doses
- targeting communications locally and for people with particular disability types with lagging vaccination rates
- targeting communications for families refusing vaccination on behalf of people with disability, and
- mandatory vaccination for disability support workers, in particular the desirability of national consistency and a broadly framed mandate.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will:

- provide updates at the next Advisory Committee meeting on:
 - work to understand vaccine hesitancy encountered in the phase 1a rollout, and
 - AHPPC's consideration of mandating the vaccine for disability support workers
- follow up on nominations for the communications working group received from the Advisory Committee, and
- look into what further data on vaccination rates among people with disability can be provided to the Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on 19 October 2021.