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**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus  
(COVID-19) for People with Disability  
Meeting 5 October 2021 – Summary of Outcomes**

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

- vaccination rates among NDIS participants and disability workers who have undergone NDIS worker screening
- measures to increase vaccination rates in disability residential settings
- measures to improve the availability of home-visit vaccination appointments conducted by GPs and pharmacists
- data available on the vaccination status of people with disability and how that data is utilised
- proof of vaccination status and consent, and
- issues being considered in relation to mandating vaccination for disability support workers.

The publication of data on vaccination rates among all NDIS participants was requested by the Advisory Committee, in addition to data published on NDIS participants prioritised in phase 1a.

States and territories provided updates on the vaccination of people living in:

- assisted boarding houses
- supported residential services, and
- juvenile detention facilities and prisons.

Medical advisors from NSW Health and the Department provided information on how infection prevention and control is being approached as areas shift to living with COVID-19 transmission.

The Advisory Committee discussed:

- establishing a working group to provide advice on vaccine communications
- how the publication and other sharing of more detailed information on vaccination rates among people with disability could support focused efforts in communities with low vaccination rates
- in the context of areas with significant community transmission reopening, the need for:
  - communicating practical infection prevention and control measures
  - flexible quarantine arrangements that meet individual's needs
  - disability accessible arrangements for proving vaccination
- the importance of considering survey findings completed by Commonwealth phase 1a vaccination providers. It is recommended a gap analysis also be undertaken, and
- reviewing the Advisory Committee's key learnings from the vaccine rollout for people with disability.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The Department will:

- seek authority to publish vaccination rates for NDIS participants
- circulate findings from the survey of phase 1 vaccine providers
- meet with the NDIA, NDIS Commission and public health advisors on guidance needed for disability providers and other organisations in reopening areas. Ventilation standards will also be discussed.

- seek regular updates from states and territories on vaccination rates in assisted boarding houses, supported residential services, juvenile detention facilities and prisons, noting the prevalence of people with disability within these settings
- establish a working group to provide advice on vaccine communications. The Advisory Committee are to provide nominations for membership, and
- schedule a meeting before the end of 2021 to discuss lessons learned thus far in the pandemic.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held on 12 October 2021.