



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Keep your disability workforce up to date by circulating this alert widely in your organisation

Disability provider alert

11 October 2021

Current hubs offering vaccination services

There are many vaccination hubs offering services for people with disability, their carers and disability workers.

The list of these services is now available on the [Australian Government Department of Health website disability provider page](#). The table is updated as new information is received.

If you have a vaccination clinic or hub you'd like to promote please [let us know](#).

Third doses for severely immunocompromised Australians

The Australian Government will offer Australians who are severely immunocompromised the option to receive a third COVID-19 vaccine dose to boost their protection against COVID-19. This follows advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and other leading vaccination and health experts. This includes people receiving treatment for cancer, organ failure, or through a range of immunosuppressive or biologic therapies. The recommended interval for the third dose is two to six months after the second dose of vaccine. ATAGI's advice is that an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is the preferred option for a third dose.

If you or someone that you care for is severely immunocompromised, we encourage you to reach out to your GP or specialist to discuss whether an extra dose is required. At this stage, ATAGI is not recommending Australians who are mildly to moderately immunocompromised to have a third dose.

National Coronavirus Helpline priority support

There is now a dedicated priority service on the National Coronavirus Helpline to support the disability care workforce. Clinical call handlers are available through this service to help with enquiries and concerns and guide callers through the Vaccine Clinic Finder to make a booking. Call 1800 020 080 and choose option 4 to use this service.

People who need support in a language other than English can contact the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS National) on **131 450**, with priority connection through to the National Coronavirus Helpline. TIS National has interpreters in 150 languages.

Use TIS interpreters to speak to clinical agents, for people who need clinical information. These calls are followed by an SMS with links to translated materials.

Social scripts for people with autism

Amaze, in partnership with National Disability Services, has developed social scripts that outline the process of getting a COVID-19 vaccination for autistic people. Autistic people may find getting the vaccination stressful. These social scripts may help to reduce anxiety and prepare for the vaccination.

With the permission of Amaze, we have added a link to these scripts on the [Department of Health webpage for people with disability](#).

Social scripts are story-based strategies using images and descriptions to explain new experiences and social environments to autistic people. Social scripts often include specific and illustrated information about what an autistic person can expect.

While Amaze developed the social scripts for autistic people, anyone feeling anxious about getting a COVID-19 vaccination can use and benefit from the resources.

Proof of vaccination

Services Australia has recently launched an online resource centre with information about how people can get proof of their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Their website includes tailored guidance for Australians to set up their online accounts, and access and store their vaccination proof.

For more information visit the Services Australia website [How to get proof](#).