# COVID-19 booster vaccination information for disability service providers

Information current as at 2 November 2021

## COVID-19 vaccine booster program for people with disability in shared residential accommodation settings

#### The Australian Government will begin administering booster doses to people with disability in shared residential accommodation settings from Monday, 8 November 2021.

The Australian Government has announced that boosters are now available for people 18 years of age or older who received their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccination more than six months ago, including people with disability living in shared residential accommodation settings.

Please refer to the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) [ATAGI recommendations on the use of a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine.](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-a-booster-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine)

The expert advice is that people are eligible for a booster vaccination if it has been six months or more since they had their second dose.

It is important to reiterate that people who have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are fully vaccinated. This is the primary course of a COVID-19 vaccination. The primary course protects people against serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19. However, getting a booster maintains maximum protection against COVID-19.

### What you need to know

People with disability living in shared residential accommodation settings who have completed their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine at least six months ago are eligible for a booster dose. Booster doses are available through Commonwealth vaccination providers, either through in-reach or a dedicated disability hub.

Receiving a booster dose through the national rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine depends on the timing of a person’s second dose. That is, six months or more since they had their second dose.

People with disability in residential accommodation settings can also receive a booster dose through other channels. Channels such as a GP, pharmacy, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinic or state or territory vaccination clinic.

### What will happen next

The National COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce will provide more detailed information on the program, process and how site visits will be arranged in the week of 8 November 2021

### What if a residential accommodation setting has not yet had dose 1 or dose 2 visits finished?

Providing people with disability in residential accommodation settings with in-reach support to complete dose 1 and dose 2 visits remains a priority. Any residential disability accommodation setting visits completed for the booster program will be in addition to dose 1 and dose 2 visits. Commonwealth vaccination providers will continue to give direct in-reach support to disability specific hubs for dose 1 and dose 2 visits.

### Third doses and boosters

It is also important to know that a booster vaccination is different to a third dose. ATAGI has recommended only people who are severely immunocompromised should receive a third dose.

If you have residents or workers who are assessed by a GP as requiring a third dose because they are severely immunocompromised, these people should receive a third dose as soon as possible.

ATAGI has not issued advice on whether people who require a third dose will need a booster.