



Australian Government



# 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**.

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.