



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

23 November 2021

New! Easy read resources on giving consent

The Department of Health has published a [Consent fact sheet in Easy Read](#) which explains what consent means in regards to receiving COVID-19 vaccination. A Consent form in Easy Read is currently being developed to accompany the fact sheet.

[Check the Department of Health website to see more Easy Read resources.](#)

Update on the booster in-reach rollout

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, or through other channels such as a GP, pharmacy, or state or territory vaccination clinic.

If your residential accommodation settings received in-reach for dose 2 at least six months ago from a Commonwealth vaccination provider, your service will be contacted via phone call by a Commonwealth vaccination provider to organise booster doses.

The process for supporting in-reach for a booster dose will be the same as preparing for dose 1 and dose 2 - confirming in-reach support is needed for a site, then arranging consent and support for individuals as required. For more information about on-site vaccination read the [COVID-19 vaccination – Disability residential accommodation checklist](#).

If you have an enquiry, you can contact COVID19VacTFDisabilityServices1A@Health.gov.au.

[See booster vaccine advice on the Department of Health website.](#)

Disability provider information kit on COVID-19 vaccine and boosters

The Department of Health has updated resources available for disability service providers to promote and support people with a disability and disability workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccination. The kit includes information about booster doses.

You can find the updated disability provider kit on the [Department of Health website](#).

Other ways to get a booster vaccine

When you become eligible to receive a booster vaccine, you can access a booster through any of these ways:

- use the [COVID-19 Clinic Finder](#). The Clinic Finder also has information about:
 - getting help from a translator
 - booking for someone else
 - disability vaccination clinics
- talk to a doctor (GP)
- visit a pharmacy that is administering COVID-19 vaccines.

Mandatory vaccinations – disability support workers

All states and territories have now mandated COVID-19 vaccination for disability support workers through public health orders.

- **Victoria** - first dose by 22 October, second dose by 26 November
- **New South Wales** - first dose by 25 October, second dose by 29 November
- **Australian Capital Territory** - first dose by 1 November, second dose by 29 November
- **Northern Territory** - first dose by 12 November and a booking for a second dose by 24 December
- **Tasmania** - first dose by 21 November, with evidence of a second dose booked by the same date
- **South Australia** - first dose by 30 November, a date isn't set for the second dose
- **Western Australia** - first dose by 1 December, second dose by 30 December
- **Queensland** – fully vaccinated by 15 December.

To view public health orders, visit the relevant state or territory government websites where you live.

Safe Work Australia online tool

Did you know that employers and workers can visit the Safe Work Australia website and use their online tool for industry specific information about COVID-19? It works by selecting the sector you are in, for example, you can select 'NDIS' or 'accommodation services' and if you are an 'employer' or 'employee'.

[View the online tool on Safe Work Australia's website](#)

Current hubs offering vaccination services

There are many vaccination hubs offering specific services for people with disability, their carers, and disability workers. The list of current hubs is on the webpage for [disability vaccination clinics](#). This page also has links to state and territory websites that have information about vaccination clinics for people with disability, and other contact information specific to your state and territory. If you have a vaccination clinic or hub you would like us to promote, please [let us know](#).

The [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) is still the main method to book an appointment.

National Coronavirus helpline and the Disability Gateway

As advised last week, the National Coronavirus Helpline now offers enhanced help to callers with disability, their family/friends or carers looking for information and advice about **COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines**. **Call the helpline on 1800 020 080 and select - option 5**. Disability and aged care workers should select option 4. This dedicated worker line can answer questions about vaccination and help book a vaccination appointment. This service complements the [Disability Gateway](#) helpline.

People with disability can also access support through the [Disability Gateway website](#) or by calling **1800 643 787** Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)). This is a **free service** that also can help people make a booking to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

[See this video - How to use the Disability Gateway.](#)

What's new on the Department of Health website

- Updated information for [disability support workers](#) (including information about vaccine mandates).

Follow us on Facebook

Don't miss the latest news and updates about COVID-19 and other health matters – follow [the Department of Health on Facebook](#).

- **New post!** Vaccination Stories – Council for Intellectual Disability [Facebook video](#).