



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

16 December 2021

Please note this will be the last provider alert for 2021. The first edition for 2022 will be sent in the week of the 10th of January.

TGA approves Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for 5 to 11-year-olds

On Friday 10th December 2021, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine for use among children aged 5 to 11 years old. The TGA have said it is as safe and effective for this cohort.

The Australian Government will start rolling out the Pfizer vaccine to 5 to 11-year-olds from 10 January 2022. From Wednesday 15 December, people can book vaccination appointments for everyone aged 5 and over.

To book an appointment visit the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) webpage. Alternatively, call the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787 Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (Australian Eastern Standard Time (AEST)).

The following resources are available to support discussions with children about the COVID-19 Vaccine.

- [How to speak to kids about COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine information for children, teens and parents/guardians](#)

ATAGI statement on Omicron variant and timing of COVID-19 booster doses

On Sunday 12th of December 2021, ATAGI provided a statement about the Omicron variant in relation to the timing of booster dose administration.

Given the likelihood of ongoing transmission of both Omicron and Delta variants, ATAGI recommends COVID-19 booster vaccination for anyone aged 18 and older. They must have completed their primary course of COVID-19 vaccination **5 or more months ago**.

[Click here to read the full ATAGI statement on Omicron variant and timing of COVID-19 booster doses.](#)

Upcoming webinar

COVID-19 webinar for People with Disability - Living with COVID

The Department of Health is holding a webinar on 'Living with COVID' for people with disability on Monday 20 December 2021 from 3:15pm-4:15pm AEDT. Further details of the webinar and panellists are listed on the departments [website](#). If you don't catch this webinar live, it will be available on demand shortly after.

Webinar recording

COVID-19 Vaccination Consent, Hesitancy and Refusal:

A webinar for disability service providers on supporting clients with intellectual disability

The Australian Government held a webinar for disability service providers on issues of vaccination consent, hesitancy and refusal that can arise when supporting clients with intellectual disability.

Keep an eye out on the [website](#) for a link to the webinar recording.

New practice standards for emergency and disaster management

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission has introduced new [NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators](#) for registered NDIS providers. These will support registered providers in the delivery of safe and quality supports and services to NDIS participants in times of emergency and disaster. This includes during sustained disruptions such as COVID-19.

Supporting access to boosters

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission strongly encourages NDIS providers to take all necessary steps to support participants to access COVID-19 vaccination and boosters. Refer to the provider alert issued by the NDIS Commission on [7 December 2021](#) for more information.

Reminder: Registered NDIS Provider Requirements – COVID-19 Worker Vaccination Status

A reminder that the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission issued a provider alert on 22 November 2021. This was for NDIS providers registered to deliver intensive support services to NDIS participants. It contained details about requirements for reporting to the NDIS Commission on the COVID-19 vaccination status of workers in line with state and territory public health orders.

Temporary price limit increases and COVID-19 pricing arrangements

The NDIA is changing the way we support providers with the cost of personal protective equipment (PPE). They are introducing a temporary increase in some NDIS price limits from between 1 January and 30 June 2022 to factor in support worker PPE.

They have published an updated [COVID Addendum](#) that outlines the dates of these changes.

Vaccination hubs for people with disability, their carers and disability workers

There are vaccination hubs offering specific services for people with disability, their carers, and disability workers – for more information visit [disability vaccination clinics](#). This page also has links to state and territory websites with 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.

Booster doses and in-reach service

People with disability who have completed their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine at least **five 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. They are also available through other channels such as a GP, pharmacy, or state or territory vaccination clinic.

Disability service providers for disability residential accommodation settings will be contacted by a Commonwealth vaccination provider to organise in-reach for booster doses. Commonwealth vaccination providers are currently working through their allocations, based on indicative booster dose due dates.

For more information about on-site vaccination read the [COVID-19 vaccination – Disability residential accommodation checklist](#).

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

[See booster vaccine advice on the Department of Health's 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.

National Coronavirus helpline and the Disability Gateway

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**.

For more information these people should 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.

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's 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](#).

- [Did you know we have digital resources to assist people with disability to access COVID-19 vaccine information?](#)