



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

20 January 2022

Supporting access to boosters

The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission strongly encourages NDIS providers to take all necessary steps to assist participants to access COVID-19 vaccination where they need assistance to do so, including boosters. Refer to the provider alert issued by the NDIS Commission on 7 December 2021 for more information.

Booster doses and in-reach service

People with disability who have completed their primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine at least **four 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

Other ways to get a booster vaccine

When you or a person you support becomes 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.

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

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine as safe and effective for use among children aged 5 to 11 years old. The Australian Government has started rolling out the Pfizer vaccine to 5 to 11-year-olds from 10 January 2022.

To book an appointment visit the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) webpage or 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 Friday 24th 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 who completed their primary course of COVID-19 vaccination **4 or more months ago**.

[Read the ATAGI Statement on the Omicron variant and the timing of COVID-19 booster vaccination.](#)

Temporary changes to COVID-19 pricing arrangements

The NDIA has announced changes to meal preparation and delivery, some supported independent living (SIL) supports and deep cleaning temporary COVID-19 measures.

The changes include:

- flexible use of core funding for meal preparation and delivery services has been extended to include participants in all states and territories until 28 February 2022
- SIL providers can directly claim from the NDIA for cleaning services and additional SIL supports when a participant has to isolate (no longer from participant funds)
- providers can directly claim from the NDIA for a one-off deep clean of a participant's house when a support worker is diagnosed with COVID-19.

The NDIA has published an updated COVID Addendum that outlines the dates of these changes.

COVID-19 vaccination consent, hesitancy and refusal:

Webinar recording

[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.

[Click here to view 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 – including during sustained disruptions such as COVID-19.

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 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

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).

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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?](#)