



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

# Disability provider alert

16 February 2022

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

New **disability vaccination** hubs are now open, offering specific services for people with disability, their carers, and disability workers. This webpage also has links to state and territory websites that have information about vaccination clinics for people with disability. 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.

## Rapid antigen test distribution to high-risk residential disability care settings

The Australian Government has started to distribute RAT kits to the higher-risk disability settings throughout Australia. These will support NDIS providers to help prevent and manage any COVID-19 outbreaks according to **AHPPC guidance**.

From 3 February 2022, the Australian Government provided an initial distribution of more than 1.2 million RAT kits to disability providers. The kits went to disability providers delivering supported independent living (SIL) services to NDIS participants across the country. Deliveries will be prioritised in terms of risk, with providers with 3 or more participants receiving deliveries.

The Australian Government will distribute further RAT kits from 28 February 2022 to SIL providers as supply increases.

## New! Easy read fact sheet on Novavax vaccine

The Department of Health has published three Easy Read fact sheets explaining the new Novavax COVID-19 vaccine. **Check the Department of Health's website for Easy Read resources.**

For more information on the Novavax vaccine read the **fact sheet on the website**.

## ATAGI recommends Pfizer as a booster for individuals aged 16 – 17 years

The ATAGI has provided the **following recommendations** on Pfizer boosters:

- a booster vaccination with the Pfizer vaccine. This is for people aged 16 to 17 years old who have previously received any TGA approved or recognised vaccines for their primary vaccine schedule.
- booster vaccination can occur from three months after receiving the last primary dose.
- this includes those who were aged under 16 years when they received their last primary dose and are now aged 16 years.
- those aged 16 to 17 years who are immunocompromised and have received a third primary dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. They should also receive a booster dose (fourth dose) of the Pfizer vaccine when they become eligible.

## Booster doses and in-reach service

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

All Disability service providers for disability residential accommodation settings have been contacted by a Commonwealth vaccination provider to organise in-reach for booster doses. Additionally, in-reach clinics, are also offering doses 1 and 2 for those yet to receive their primary doses.

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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## COVID-19 webinar for people with disability

The Australian Government held a webinar for people with a disability on 20 January 2022.

[Click here to view the webinar recording.](#)

## 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.](#)

## 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](#)

## 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?**