

---

**Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus  
(COVID-19) for People with Disability**  
**Meeting 22 February 2022 – Summary of Outcomes**

---

Committee members with lived experience of disability and carers raised concerns about:

- the easing of face mask requirements in public spaces (for example, supermarkets) in some states and territories. This is creating anxiety for people with disability at greater risk from COVID-19, and
- when the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) will release advice on further booster doses as some people with disability received their booster dose four months ago.

The Department of Health and the Department of Social Services provided updates on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout for in-reach settings. This included:

- uptake of in-reach vaccination offers
- vaccination rates for people living in in-reach settings
- the types of vaccine used as part of the in-reach program
- the status of the booster rollout, and
- the referral of new sites for in-reach vaccination by states and territories.

The Committee asked the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) to give an update on reasons for vaccine refusal among people with disability. The NDIS Commission committed to present data on vaccine refusal by or on behalf of NDIS participants at a future meeting.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) was asked about direct contact with substitute decision-makers and NDIS participant nominees on COVID-19 vaccination. The NDIA noted:

- broader updates to its communication materials, and
- work underway to identify pockets of unvaccinated NDIS participants.

The Committee briefly discussed the publication of vaccination data for people with disability. There was agreement in principle that greater transparency of data would be useful.

### **Next steps**

The Department will:

- advise the Chief Medical Officer of the Committee's concerns relating to the easing of mask restrictions in some states and territories
- follow up with ATAGI on their consideration of further COVID-19 booster doses, and
- convene a meeting of the Committee's data working group to:
  - develop recommendations on the way the Department could present vaccination data publicly, and
  - meet with the Department's Health and Economics Research Division to discuss further data linkage opportunities.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for 8 March 2022.