



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

# Disability provider alert

2 March 2022

## ATAGI approves Moderna vaccine for children 6 – 11 years

As of 23 February 2022, ATAGI has recommended the Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccine can be used for primary vaccination in children aged 6-11 years. The Pfizer vaccine is still available and recommended for children aged 5 to 11 years old. Pfizer remains the only vaccine available for children who are 5 years old. There are currently no vaccines licensed for children aged 4 years and under.

For more information please read the full [ATAGI statement](#).

## Guidance on the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in disability settings

Consider the use and selection of PPE alongside other strategies to keep people with disability, their carers and disability workers safe. The Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) provides [guidance on the use of PPE for health care workers](#).

ICEG doesn't recommend that people with disability wear P2/N95 masks as a precautionary measure. However, it may be appropriate for disability support workers to wear these in some contexts. Given the varied nature of disability support settings, decisions around the use of PPE need to be flexible. They should be guided by evidence, context, and consideration of disability support worker preferences.

Consider ICEG advice in line with more detailed guidance available at a state and territory, and organisational level.

The Department of Health provides an emergency 7-day supply of PPE from the National Medical Stockpile to NDIS providers and self-managing participants across Australia who meet eligibility criteria. Eligible NDIS providers and self-managed participants can seek an emergency supply of PPE from the National Medical stockpile online via an [application for NDIS PPE Request](#).

## Rapid antigen tests sent to NDIS supported independent living providers

Over coming months, the NDIA will supply and distribute up to 5.5 million more Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) kits to support participants and workers. These will be for participants and workers in supported independent living (SIL) settings.

From mid to late February 2022, RAT kits were regularly sent to NDIS participants and workers in SIL settings for use. These are to detect cases early and help manage outbreaks.

RATs are an important tool to help manage outbreaks and early detection in accordance to [AHPPC guidance](#).

The NDIA has contacted providers directly about receiving regular RAT kit deliveries. Providers will receive shipping updates from the delivery partner.

The [NDIS website](#) has the latest advice about all COVID-19 supports.

## Reminder: Easy Read resources available on Department of Health website

We have a range of Easy Read resources available on our website. There are a variety of topics about the vaccine, getting the vaccine, side effects and other information. These are available on our [disability landing page](#) on the Department of Health website.

You can also find a [full list of Easy Read and plain English resources](#) related to COVID-19, including emergency planning, testing and preventing the spread of COVID-19.

## COVID-19 vaccination and influenza vaccination – latest ATAGI advice

ATAGI advice issued 28 February 2022 is that the influenza vaccination and COVID-19 vaccine can be co-administered (given on the same day). See the [full statement](#) for more information.

## Assistance for people with disability and their families/carers/providers

Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787** - open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

Department of Health website at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)

National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on **1800 020 080**.

If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

## 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](#).