



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

9 March 2022

Latest ATAGI recommendations on booster doses

ATAGI released new recommendations about booster doses on 2 March 2022.

This includes:

- Novovax can be used as a booster in people aged 18 years and over
- AstraZeneca is no longer recommended as a booster for people who had a primary course of the AstraZeneca vaccine
- Pfizer can be used as a booster in people aged 16 years and over
- Updated evidence of the effectiveness of booster doses against Omicron.

Please see [ATAGI's statement](#) for the full details.

Vaccination after testing positive for COVID-19

If a person tests positive between their 1st and 2nd doses or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, they should wait until they have recovered from the illness before receiving the next dose. People with longer lasting periods of symptoms, longer than 4 months, should be vaccinated on a case-by-case basis.

More information is available in [ATAGI's Expanded guidance on temporary medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccines](#).

You can also get further advice from a [specialist immunisation service](#).

Booster in-reach program near completion

We are coming to the end of the booster in-reach program for disability residential settings. All known sites have been contacted and scheduled for vaccination. If you are still in need of an in-reach service, please [email us](#) as soon as possible to be allocated to a vaccine provider.

Updates from the NDIA

- Rapid antigen test (RAT) claims for eligible supported independent living (SIL) providers have been extended until 30 April 2022.
- NDIS participants can flexibly use these funds to pay for prepared meals and delivery support in certain circumstances. The funding is for participants who usually have help from a support worker to prepare meals at home or with grocery shopping. This is in place from 1 March 2022.

Booster dose mandates for disability workers

Vaccination mandates are a matter for each state and territory. The mandates for disability workers in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Northern Territory now include booster doses.

For more information, and to keep up to date with requirements in each jurisdiction, please visit the following websites:

- [NSW](#)
- [VIC](#)
- [SA](#)
- [NT](#)
- [QLD](#)
- [ACT](#)
- [WA](#)
- [TAS](#)

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

National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on **1800 020 080** (people with disability, their families and carers should select Option 5, disability workers should select Option 4).

If you need information in a language other than English, you can call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on 1800 020 080 and press option 8. This is a free service.

You can also 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**.

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