
Advisory Committee on the Health Emergency Response to Coronavirus (COVID-19) for People with Disability Meeting 29 March 2022 – Summary of Outcomes

Committee members with lived experience of disability and carers raised the following issues:

- the scope of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation's (ATAGI's) advice on winter booster doses. This includes people with disability in disability care facilities or who are severely immunocompromised. This may exclude some people with disability who are at increased risk of COVID-19, including:
 - people with medical or physical risk factors (e.g. limited lung capacity), and
 - people living in private homes in regular contact with disability support workers
- awareness of and access to oral treatments for COVID-19 among people with disability
- information for general practitioners to help them discuss oral COVID-19 treatments with patients with disability, and
- ways to improve recognition in the broader community that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose serious challenges to people with disability.

The Department presented data on COVID-19 vaccination rates for people with disability by jurisdiction, disability type, age, gender, and residential setting.

The Committee discussed the need for targeted action to improve vaccination rates among people with disability living in rented private accommodation and people with psychosocial disability. The Committee requested further data to inform its consideration of strategies to improve vaccination rates among those groups, including:

- vaccination rates in residential settings by age and disability type, and
- data on the use of health services by unvaccinated people.

The Department provided an update of a recent meeting between the Committee's data working group chaired by the Department's Health Economics and Research Division.

The Department will hold webinars on winter preparedness for people with disability and disability support workers. The Committee suggested that these webinars address the following topics:

- access to COVID-19 treatments
- COVID-19 winter booster doses, and
- influenza vaccination.

NEXT STEPS

The Department will:

- invite ATAGI to attend the Committee's next meeting to discuss its advice on winter boosters
- investigate further data to support the Committee's consideration of strategies to improve vaccination rates among:
 - people with disability living in rented private accommodation, and
 - people with psychosocial disability
- seek input from states and territories on outreach to unvaccinated people with disability.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee is scheduled for 12 April 2022.