



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

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# Disability provider alert

4 April 2022

## COVID-19 Winter dose program for people with disability living in shared residential accommodation

We encourage disability service providers to work with people with disability and their existing primary care providers. It is important to start planning for the delivery of COVID-19 Winter dose vaccinations in shared residential settings.

Providers can source Winter doses through a variety of channels including:

- Primary care providers such as GPs and pharmacies
- By working with Primary Health Networks (PHNs) to identify primary health care in-reach options
- Commonwealth in-reach.

If providers need support in organising a primary care provider, you can contact **your local PHN** for help in finding local primary care options. If a primary care provider is not available to complete the in-reach vaccination, the PHN will then arrange Commonwealth in-reach.

You do not need to wait for in-reach services if other services will meet your needs.

## Continuing Commonwealth support

The Commonwealth will continue to actively offer in-reach vaccinations to residential disability settings, including through GPs and pharmacies. In-reach clinics provided by Commonwealth Vaccination Administration Provider Program (VAPP) providers continue to be available as a vaccination pathway where primary care channels, such as GPs and pharmacies, are not available.

Disability service providers may submit an expression of interest (EOI) to the Department of Health for Commonwealth in-reach support where in-reach is still the most appropriate vaccination service. The EOI form is available [here](#).

The disability service provider should submit the form. You can request in-reach support for multiple settings on one form. However, you don't need to wait for all settings in your service to be eligible or confirmed as requiring the in-reach service before submitting the form.

Once received, a VAPP provider will be allocated to support the disability service provider or individual with their vaccination needs. The planning for a Winter dose visit will then follow the same process as previous in-reach vaccination visits.

Where you know in-reach support is required we would encourage you to submit the form as early as possible.

More information on the Winter dose, vaccination options, and the in-reach program for people with disability is available on the Department of Health website.

Enquiries can be sent to: [DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@health.gov.au](mailto:DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@health.gov.au)

## Winter dose eligibility

People most at risk of severe complications and those most at risk of serious illness should receive a Winter COVID-19 vaccine dose. This recommendation is for:

- adults aged 65 years and older
- residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- people aged 16 years and older with severe immunocompromise (as defined in a previous [ATAGI statement](#))
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 50.

ATAGI recommends that these people should receive their COVID-19 Winter dose from **4 months after their initial booster dose**.

## Disability workers and booster doses

It is important workers receive a booster to stay up to date. Workers should continue to follow the relevant Public Health Orders in their jurisdictions. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advised on 16 March 2022 that disability workers require three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to be up to date. This is to provide protection against both infection and severe disease. Read the full [AHPPC statement](#) on our website.

## COVID-19 support for NDIS participants and providers

From 1 April 2022, eligible NDIS providers can claim \$75 per participant per COVID-19 dose when they support a participant to receive their vaccination. COVID-19 vaccinations eligible for this support include the primary vaccination dose, as well as any booster vaccination dosages. This temporary measure replaces previous vaccination supports offered by the NDIA.

Rapid antigen test claims for support workers has been extended until 31 August 2022. This support was originally ending on 30 April 2022.

Learn more about these temporary COVID-19 supports:

- [For participants: Your health and safety](#)
- [For providers - coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

## Assistance for people with disability and their families/friends/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** (people with disability, their families and carers should select Option 5, disability workers should select Option 4).

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

The Translating and Interpreting Service is also available on **131 450**.

For people who are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

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