



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Winter Dose Program

PHN & Disability Sector Fact Sheet

April 2022

ATAGI recommends COVID-19 Winter vaccine dose for people in disability residential accommodation settings.

The expert Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends **an extra COVID-19 vaccine dose** for higher risk groups.

This recommendation includes residents of disability care facilities and people aged 16 years and older with severe immunocompromise, as defined by [ATAGI](#). People who do not meet this description but believe they need a Winter dose should talk to their GP.

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

COVID-19 Winter vaccine doses for these groups will be available **from 4 April 2022**.

In some circumstances, individuals may be vaccinated at a shorter interval from their last dose, for example, such as to meet the needs of most residents in a group setting. The extra booster dose should not be administered less than three months from a person's previous booster dose.

For more information, please see [ATAGI's full statement](#).

Co-administration of COVID-19 Winter dose and annual flu vaccination

ATAGI have advised that the COVID-19 vaccination can be administered at the same time as the annual flu vaccination. Co-administration of COVID-19 Winter doses and influenza vaccines is clinically safe - but people should not delay one while waiting for the other.

COVID-19 Winter vaccination in-reach program

The Commonwealth will continue to actively offer in-reach vaccinations to all residential disability settings for primary course and booster doses, including through GPs and pharmacies. However, increasingly, people with disability and their service providers are seeking services from local primary care settings. 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.

Role of Disability Service Providers

We encourage disability service providers to work with people with disability and their existing primary care providers to start planning for the delivery of COVID-19 Winter dose vaccinations.

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 [Primary Health Network](#) to ask for help in finding local primary care options.

Role of the Primary Health Networks

PHNs have always had an important role in supporting local vaccination efforts, which remains unchanged. As providers are now preferring more local solutions, the expertise of PHNs is as valuable as ever.

Disability service providers may contact PHNs to ask for support reaching local primary care provider options that can provide in-reach services.

PHNs should use their local knowledge and networks to help disability service providers to source vaccine providers that might be available through primary care channels.

Submitting an Expression of Interest for Commonwealth in-reach

Disability service providers may submit an expression of interest to the Department of Health for Commonwealth in-reach support, where this is still the most appropriate vaccination service.

Disability Service Providers should submit the form; or, for individuals in need of in-home support, the PHN can submit the form on their behalf.

Once received, a VAPP provider will be allocated to support the disability service provider or individual with their vaccination needs.

Where to go for more information

More information on the Winter dose, vaccination options, and the in-reach program for people with disability are available on the Department of Health's [website](#).

Enquiries can also be sent to DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@health.gov.au