



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

04 May 2022

ATAGI Advice on mRNA vaccine dose intervals

The recommended dose interval for the 2 doses of the primary course of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines was previously 3 to 6 weeks for Comirnaty (Pfizer) and 4 to 6 weeks for Spikevax (Moderna).

ATAGI now recommends the dose interval between primary doses should be extended to 8 weeks.

The extended dose interval of 8 weeks has been shown to improve the immune response to vaccination and therefore may improve effectiveness. A longer dose interval may also reduce the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis. The longer dose interval is particularly recommended for groups at higher risk of this side effect (those under the age of 40 years).

The dose interval can be reduced (to a minimum of 3 weeks for Pfizer or 4 weeks for Moderna) for people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (including older adults and people with underlying medical conditions), in an outbreak setting, or prior to international travel.

ATAGI Advice on COVID-19 vaccination post infection

ATAGI have also updated their advice on when people who have had COVID-19 should receive a subsequent vaccine dose. It is now recommended that all people should wait for **3 months** after infection before they receive their next COVID-19 vaccine dose. The next scheduled dose should then be given as soon as possible after this period.

Waiting for a 3-month period after infection before COVID-19 vaccination is intended to optimise protection for that person. A longer gap between infection and vaccination is likely to lead to a better immune response and result in longer protection from reinfection.

This change in recommendation applies to all people who are recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccination (i.e., from 5 years and above), regardless of how many COVID-19 vaccine doses they have received. It does not apply to other vaccines (for example, influenza vaccinations) which can continue to be administered as usual.

COVID-19 resources for people with disability – Winter Planning Stakeholder kit

This new stakeholder kit has key messages to help you communicate the importance of planning for winter and managing COVID-19 for people with disability. It will help you easily share information with your contacts and includes links to materials such as videos and factsheets.

Access the [kit](#) from the Disability Gateway under COVID-19 support.

Encouraging vaccinations for children

National Disability Services have published the podcast [A young NDIS participant and his mother tell their story of getting the COVID-19 vaccination](#). The recording runs for approximately 7 minutes and provides insights from Marika and her son Leo on the vaccination experience, what led them to decide to get vaccinated, and how they planned ahead to make the vaccination process as easy as possible.

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

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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