Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

24 June 2022

New Q&A videos for people with disability

Dr Nick Lennox, Senior Medical Advisor at the Department of Health, answers some common questions about COVID-19 from people with disability:

- Available Treatments for COVID-19
- Making a health plan for Winter
- Flu and COVID-19 Vaccination

ATAGI recommendations for use of a first booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents aged 12-15 years.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended that a first booster dose of the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine may be given to the following adolescents aged 12-15 years who have completed a primary course of vaccination 3 or more months ago:

- if they are severely immunocompromised
- have a disability with significant or complex health needs, or
- have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

Commonwealth Vaccination In-Reach Program

Don't forget that in-reach is still available to residential disability settings for primary course, boosters and winter doses.
To get in-reach support, contact us at disabilitycovidvaccinedelivery@health.gov.au.

Help Stop the Flu in 2022

This winter we are already starting to see a sharp rise in the number of reported cases of influenza. Coupled with the risk of contracting COVID-19, it is expected that some people, especially older people and those with chronic health conditions, may be at risk of becoming seriously unwell if they are not up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination and have not had an influenza vaccination.

Who should get an influenza vaccine?

Influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over. Under the National Immunisation Program, free influenza vaccines are provided to the following groups who are at higher risk of complications from influenza:

- children aged 6 months to less than 5 years
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
- people aged 6 months and over with certain medical conditions that increase their chance of severe influenza and its complications
- pregnant women (at any stage during pregnancy)
- people aged 65 years and over.

A COVID-19 vaccination and an influenza vaccination can be administered at the same time and may be provided to patients during the same attendance.

COVID-19 vaccination – communication materials for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

The Department of Health has developed communication products for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Aboriginal health services. The communication products include publicly available TV and radio scripts, animations, infographics, fact sheets, social media content, posters and newsletters. You can find all of these materials on the Department of Health website.

Resources for Infection Prevention and Control and Mental Health

The Department of Health has resources that can help you find out more on COVID-19 infection prevention and control and mental health.

Infection Prevention and Control

- COVID-19 infection control training
- CDNA national guidelines for the prevention and management of COVID-19 outbreaks in disability residential services
- Minimising the risk of infectious respiratory disease transmission in the context of COVID-19 the hierarchy of controls
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines for infection prevention and control in residential care facilities

Mental Health

- How are you feeling today?
- Help and support for your mental wellbeing
- Looking after your mental health and wellbeing
- Help when you need it – supporting your mental health during mandatory quarantine
- Mental health and wellbeing support for employees during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Information for health and mental health workers supporting people with disability

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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