



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

3 August 2022

ATAGI UPDATE - Vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years

ATAGI recommends COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years with **severe immunocompromise, disability, and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.**

These include children with the following or similar conditions:

- Severe primary or secondary immunodeficiency, including those undergoing treatment for cancer, or on immunosuppressive treatments as listed in the [ATAGI advice](#) on 3rd primary doses of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised;
- Bone marrow or stem cell transplant, or chimeric antigen T-cell (CAR-T) therapy;
- Complex congenital cardiac disease;
- Structural airway anomalies or chronic lung disease;
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus;
- Chronic neurological or neuromuscular conditions; or
- A disability that requires frequent assistance with activities of daily living, such as severe cerebral palsy or Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21)

[ATAGI recommendations on COVID-19 vaccine use in children aged 6 months to \(health.gov.au\)](https://www.health.gov.au)

The recommendation is for 2 primary doses, except for those children with severe immunocompromise who will require 3 primary doses. The recommended interval between each dose is 8 weeks.

The COVID-19 Vaccination Program for children aged 6 months to under 5 years will commence on 5 September 2022, with further details on the program to come.

Masks help stop the spread

Some people have reported feeling ostracised or questioned when wearing their mask in public. The Department of Health and Aged Care has released a [new video](#) to encourage and support the use of mask wearing in the community.

Join the Winter Relief Workforce

Winter and flu season means we need to ensure that people with disabilities continue to be supported when the workforce is struck by illness. The NDIA, working with IPA Personnel, is developing a register of skilled disability workers who can be called up on a short-term basis when there are critical local workforce shortages.

Across the country, we are looking for people willing to sign up to the national Register to help out if needed. We are looking for:

- former disability support workers or final placement students
- people that have or are willing to get appropriate worker clearance and police checks
- people not currently working in disability support.

If you, or someone you know, want to help, [register now](#).

Improved Vaccine Clinic Finder now features more accessibility information

The Commonwealth's [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) now provides improved results with more accessibility and inclusivity features. This includes clinics with low sensory spaces, wheelchair access, and other languages spoken.

Update on Commonwealth Vaccination In-Reach Program

Commonwealth vaccination providers **are contacting residential disability service providers** to offer in-reach for COVID-19 vaccination. If residents are due for their next dose, please book in as soon as possible.

To get more support you can also [contact us](#).

Support for people with disability, providers, carers and families

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 choose Option 5, disability workers should choose 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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