



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

13 September 2022

Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine

Following the Therapeutic Goods Administration's provisional registration for the Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccine (SPIKEVAX Bivalent Original/Omicron), [ATAGI recommends](#) the vaccine for use as a booster dose in adults aged 18 years and over, noting:

- ATAGI does not recommend the Moderna bivalent vaccine for the primary course of vaccination. This is the first two doses for most people or first three doses for severely immunocompromised people.
- ATAGI does not currently recommend use of the Moderna bivalent vaccine as a booster in anyone under 18 years. It is not registered for this age group.

The Australian Government will include the Moderna Bivalent in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program for boosters in people aged 18 years or older, from 10 October 2022.

COVID-19 fourth dose: available now through Commonwealth Vaccination In-Reach Program

Disability service providers can support residents in disability accommodation settings (including NDIS SIL) to access the recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses. You can do this through the Commonwealth's Vaccination Administration Provider Program (VAPP). In-reach (in-home) vaccination services can be provided to both residents and staff.

If a VAPP provider has not already contacted your organisation, and residents need support to access their next COVID-19 dose, submit an [expression of interest](#) online. For more information contact DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@Health.gov.au.

Changes to COVID-19 isolation requirements

On 31 August, National Cabinet agreed to reduce the isolation periods for COVID-19 positive cases from seven to five days following a positive test, noting:

- this applies only to people with no symptoms at five days, and
- **seven days' isolation remains for workers in high-risk settings including aged care, disability care and those providing care in the home.**

These changes came into effect on Friday 9 September. The Prime Minister's statement is available [here](#).

Vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years

The COVID-19 Vaccination Program for children aged 6 months to under 5 years began on 5 September 2022. Appointments are available with selected providers through the [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

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.**

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

The Department of Health and Aged Care worked with ARIA award-winning Australian musical group Teeny Tiny Stevies to compose the song 'I Got You'. A [music video and children's activity kit](#) has been released with the song. The song reminds children to wash their hands and stay home if they are not feeling well. Listen to '*I Got You*'.

COVID-19 resources for people with disability – Stakeholder kit

This stakeholder kit has key messages to help you communicate the importance of planning for 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.

Communication support for people with disabilities

Supporting effective communication upholds the rights of people with disabilities to have choice and control and make decisions about their own lives. The NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission (NDIS Commission) is reminding providers of their obligation under the [NDIS Practice Standards](#) and [NDIS Code of Conduct](#) to support effective communication. This includes the obligation to offer and support access to interpreting services to help participants use their supports. For more information, visit the [NDIS Commission website](#).

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 and Aged Care 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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