



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

Disability provider alert

11 October 2022

Changes to COVID-19 isolation requirements

On 30 September, National Cabinet agreed to end mandatory isolation requirements for COVID-19, effective 14 October.

The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment (PLDP) also ends effective 14 October. National Cabinet agreed to continue targeted financial support for casual workers on the same basis as PLDP. This covers workers in aged care, disability care, aboriginal healthcare and hospital care sectors.

The Prime Minister's statement is available [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination: 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). Both residents and staff can use in-reach (in-home) vaccination services.

Vaccination and staying up to date with recommended vaccinations continues to offer important protection against severe illness, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19.

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

Extension of access to the National Medical Stockpile (NMS)

The Australian Government has extended current access arrangements to the NMS until 31 December 2022 for NDIS providers and self-managed NDIS participants.

Registered NDIS providers and self-managing NDIS participants can access a 2-week supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and rapid antigen tests (RATs) from the NMS. This is for those who are unable to access these materials through the private market.

Self-managed NDIS participants and NDIS providers who are unable to source PPE or RATs through their normal channels can contact the NMS at NDISCOVIDPPE@health.gov.au. Requests for resources from the NMS are triaged based on need.

Ventilation: to help lower transmission risk of COVID-19

COVID-19 can spread quickly in poorly ventilated or crowded indoor settings where people spend time together. Good ventilation is an important consideration for indoor disability settings as one tool to lower the transmission risk for people with disability and workers. This is particularly true where physical distancing and/or mask wearing is difficult to maintain.

The Department of Social Services has developed a [fact sheet](#) for disability providers on ventilation and COVID-19, which is available on the Disability Gateway.

Communication resources for disability sector

The Council for Intellectual Disability has produced a video '[Your right to the vaccine](#)' for people with intellectual disability. The video is about making decisions about health care and vaccinations. The video is also available on [Youtube](#).

Other COVID-19 resources, available on the Department of Health and Aged Care website:

- [COVIDSafe behaviours video](#) with Professor Michael Kidd AM, Deputy Chief Medical Officer.
- The video '[Reasons to wear a face mask](#)' was designed for the culturally and linguistically diverse community. It includes a message about respecting people's choice to wear masks.

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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