

Prevention of respiratory infections

Respiratory infections affect the parts of your body that help you breathe: your nose, throat and lungs.



Who is susceptible?

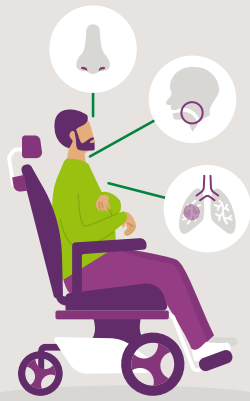
Respiratory infections and diseases are a leading cause of poor health and death in people with disability. In Australia, respiratory infections and diseases contribute to up to half of deaths of people using disability services.



50%
of total deaths
in Australia





What health conditions could increase risk?

Some contributing factors that can increase the risk of respiratory infection and diseases include: swallowing problems (Dysphagia), gastro oesophageal reflux disease, sleep apnoea, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.



What can be done to reduce the risk?

Good respiratory health involves supporting people with disability to have access to influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations, medication reviews and health checks.

-  Influenza vaccination
-  COVID-19 vaccination
-  Medication reviews
-  Health checks



What are the signs of respiratory infection?

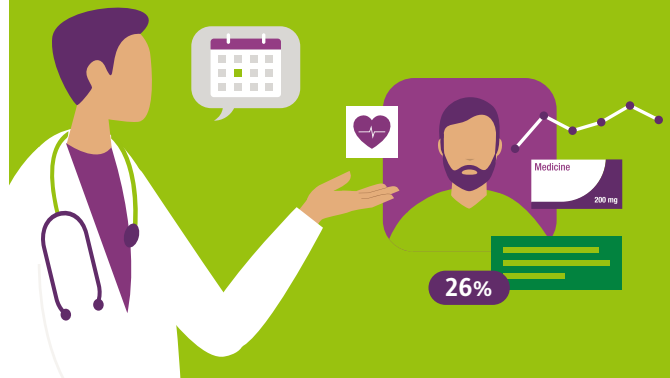
Physical and behavioural changes that may indicate respiratory infection include: difficulty breathing, noisy breathing or wheezing, a persistent cough and coughing up mucus or blood.

It is important that NDIS providers support NDIS participants to immediately access medical advice if they notice any signs of respiratory infection.



Ongoing care

NDIS providers are required to monitor NDIS participants' ongoing health, safety and wellbeing and support participants to maintain their health and to access appropriate health services when required.



Find out more

For full details on this practice alert and the obligations for NDIS support workers, and access to other training and resources, please visit [ndiscommission.gov.au/workerresources](https://www.ndiscommission.gov.au/workerresources)



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