



Group 1a: What NDIS participants in residential disability accommodation need to know about the COVID-19 vaccines

Australia's COVID-19 vaccination program has started. People in residential disability accommodation are in group 1a, and are among the first group of Australians who can receive the vaccine.

This fact sheet is based on information from the Australian Government Department of Health (Department of Health). It contains information about the vaccination program, and explains how your provider should be preparing for it. It also contains links to resources about the vaccine.

Key points

- People in residential disability accommodation are among the first group of Australians who can receive the vaccine.
- It is important that you understand what the COVID-19 vaccine is and what it is for, as well as the risks and benefits.
- Your provider should talk to you about the vaccination program, and be starting to plan for it.
- The Department of Health has developed a webpage with [information for people with disability about COVID-19 vaccines](#), and a range of resources about the COVID-19 vaccines, including in Easy Read and Auslan.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is a way to protect people with disability, workers and the wider community.

All Australians are encouraged to have the COVID-19 vaccine but, at this stage, it is voluntary. This means that you can decide whether or not to receive it.

People in residential disability accommodation are among the first group of Australians who will be offered the vaccine.

Agreeing to receive the vaccine

Before you agree to get the vaccine, it is important that you understand:

- what the COVID-19 vaccine is and what it is for
- the benefits of the vaccine
- the risks of the vaccine.

Talk to your family about the vaccine and whether you would like to receive it.



If you have any questions, you can talk to your doctor about the vaccine and whether it is suitable for you. You might like a family member, or your carer or guardian to be with you when you talk to the doctor.

Tell your provider if you would like their help to arrange a time to talk to your doctor about the vaccine.

What if I don't want to be vaccinated?

If you choose not to get the COVID-19 vaccine, or you don't want to receive it yet, your provider and their workers should keep supporting you with the services you need. They should continue to use safe practices (like washing their hands, wearing PPE if needed, and meeting social distancing requirements) to minimise the risk of you catching the virus.

You can [complain to the NDIS Commission](#) if your provider or a worker stops providing you with supports because you don't want to receive the vaccine.

Can I ask my support workers to get the vaccine?

You have the right to choose who supports you. This means you can ask your provider to ensure that the workers who support you are vaccinated, if that's what you want.

If you only want to be supported by workers who have been vaccinated, but a worker who usually supports you does not want to receive the vaccine, you can expect your provider to work with you to find another suitable worker to support you.

Alternatively, you may ask that any workers who have not received the vaccine take other steps to ensure the risk of infection remains low.

How your provider should be preparing for the vaccine

You should expect your provider to:

- **use your preferred communication methods** to discuss the vaccination program with you
- encourage you to **talk to your family** about whether you want to receive the vaccine
- help you **get the answers to any questions you have about the vaccine** so that you understand what the vaccine is, and what the risks and benefits are of receiving it before you agree to receive it
- help you to **understand how risks of COVID-19 transmission are being managed**, to help you decide whether to receive the vaccine
- work with you to **understand if you will need any support on vaccination day** (e.g. if you would like a support person with you when you receive the vaccine)
- start **planning where the vaccinations will be given**, and where you will be able to wait before you receive the vaccine
- know **how they will maintain COVIDSafe practices** on vaccination day, including physical distancing, hand hygiene and cleaning.

Resources about the COVID-19 vaccine

The Department of Health has developed an [Information for people with disability about COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage, which covers many questions you might have about the vaccines, including when and where it will be available. This webpage is being updated regularly.

The Department of Health website also published resources (including Easy Read and Auslan) about the vaccines. These resources explain what the vaccines are, how to prepare for your vaccination, and what to expect after you are vaccinated.



- [Information on COVID-19 Pfizer \(Comirnaty\) vaccine](#)
- [Preparing for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [After your COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning pregnancy](#)
- [Supporting people with intellectual or developmental disability to access health care during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Consent form for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Vaccine information in other languages](#)

Easy Read

- [COVID-19 vaccine - Overview](#)
- [What is the COVID-19 vaccine? Is it safe?](#)
- [Who will get the vaccine?](#)
- [Where can you get the vaccine?](#)
- [The Pfizer vaccine](#)
- [Getting ready for the vaccination](#)
- [What to expect when you have your vaccination](#)
- [Giving your consent](#)
- [After your vaccination](#)
- [Other information](#)

Auslan videos

- [About Australia's COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [How COVID-19 vaccines Work](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine National Rollout](#)
- [Approval of a COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [The making of vaccines](#)

Disability Gateway

You can use the [Disability Gateway](#) for information and referrals about COVID-19. It can also help your family families, carers and support workers.

The Disability Gateway is free, private and fact-checked.

You can contact the Disability Gateway by:

- Phone (free call): 1800 643 787
- If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on 133 677
- For support in another language, use the free Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) by calling
 - the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787 and asking for an interpreter, or
 - TIS on 131 450 and ask to be connected to the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787.

The Disability Gateway is available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (AEST). It is not available on national public holidays.

When you call the Disability Gateway, you will speak to a person who will:

- Listen carefully to you.



NDIS Quality
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- Use their connections to find things out, check the facts, and get information for you.
- Transfer you to services that can help you.
- Transfer you to a phone counsellor for emotional support, if you would like.
- Give you clear and accessible information.

Contact Us

Call: 1800 035 544 (free call from landlines). Our contact centre is open 9am to 4.30pm in the NT, 9.00am to 5.00pm in all other states and territories Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

Email: contactcentre@ndiscommission.gov.au

Website: www.ndiscommission.gov.au