



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# Disability provider alert

26 May 2021

Aspen Medical is now vaccinating people with disability living in residential accommodation housing with two or more people. This is continuing in the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, and Victoria. Rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine also commenced in South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania this week. Western Australia will begin next week.

The Australian Government has now contracted Healthcare Australia (HCA) to support further expansion of the vaccine rollout. The focus will be on increasing capacity in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. They will start this work from mid-June.

## Preparing for Aspen Medical to undertake the vaccine rollout in your residential disability setting

Aspen Telehealth are currently contacting relevant disability providers to organise the time and date for vaccination of people with disability at their residence. These calls are being made from an out-bound number only. Providers that are contacted by Aspen Telehealth will see (03 9960 8700) as the number displayed. There is no option to call this number back.

**Note:** these calls should be answered as a priority.

Aspen Telehealth will request a site contact for your residential disability accommodation. This contact should have a good understanding of their resident's needs, including any behaviours of concern that vaccine providers should be aware of.

Staff rostered on the day of vaccination should consider how the ongoing management and monitoring of residents will take place, beyond the initial 15 minutes observation undertaken by the vaccine provider. This includes appropriate communication to any rotation of staff during the day.

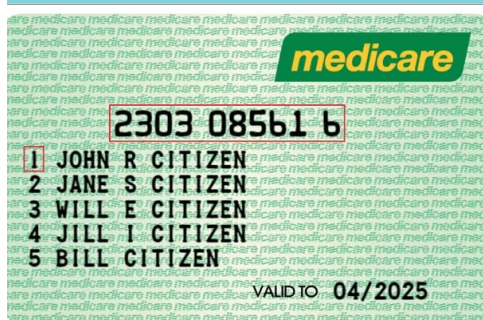
### Consent forms

Aspen Medical's preferred method of consent is the Commonwealth's consent form as this covers all the information required. This consent form can be found on the [Department of Health](#) website. Aspen Medical ask that:

- all fields be completed and legible.

- consent be completed by the person authorised to provide consent.
- when recording the Medicare number, ensure to include the Individual Reference Number (IRN). The IRN is the number to the left of a person's name. Refer to the example below.

Name:	John R Citizen											
Medicare number:	2	3	0	3	0	8	5	6	1	6	█	1



## Disability providers contacted to support the vaccine rollout for people with disability in residential accommodation of two or more people

As the vaccine program continues to ramp up, there are more options for people with disability to receive their vaccination.

The vaccine rollout is a complex, logistical challenge. It is acknowledged that significant time and effort is being made by disability providers to support the vaccination rollout and to ensure that people with disability are getting the vaccine that best meets their needs, and as soon as possible.

Disability providers may have been contacted by different organisations about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout for their residents. This may include phone calls from the:

- vaccine providers such as Aspen and HCA to schedule a visit from the vaccine team;
- Primary Health Network to find out if you want assistance to organise a GP to provide an in-reach service for residence where everyone living there are people with disability who are 50 and over, and would like to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine; and
- the National Disability Insurance Agency to find out whether any of your residents and staff have already received a vaccination (this will assist us with our planning).

The Department of Health is aware of the confusion this may cause and is working towards a more streamlined process. We are trying to provide as many options as possible for your residents to receive the vaccine so we can protect people as soon as possible.

## Supporting your workers to be vaccinated

Disability providers are encouraged to support their workers to get the COVID-19 vaccine and ensure they are aware of how they can get vaccinated.

Disability workers have a range of options when it comes to getting vaccinated. This may include the option to be vaccinated at their place of work if they are rostered on at the time when a vaccine provider is visiting residents at their site. Disability providers need to take into consideration how this is managed in relation to any side effects post vaccination and the ability of staff to continue their role for the remainder of their shift. Other options for disability workers to receive their vaccine include:

- Those **under 50 years old** can book an appointment at dedicated vaccination clinics, run by SONIC Healthcare. There are four SONIC facilities now open in New South Wales. Appointments can be made via the [Sonic Healthcare vaccinations website](#).
- Those **50 years and over**, can continue to access the vaccine through GPs, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services. These locations can be found through the [Eligibility Checker](#).

## Webpage updates for people with disability and disability support workers

The Department of Health has updated its website with more information to support people with disability and disability support workers. These include:

- changes to the [Information for people with disability about COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage to make it more streamlined.
- an update on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to people with disability, provided by Dr Lucas de Toca, found [here](#).
- a dedicated webpage for disability support workers, found [here](#).
- a range of videos in response to questions from people with disability on the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. Topics cover:
  - COVID-19 vaccination – [more information and support people at vaccination appointments](#)
  - COVID-19 vaccination – [medications, getting the vaccination in a wheelchair and eligibility](#)
  - COVID-19 vaccination – [where to get the vaccine and visiting family members after vaccination](#)
  - COVID-19 vaccination – [advice on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine](#)

All COVID-19 vaccination – Easy Read resources continue to be updated, and can be found [here](#).

## Social post and tiles

The below social media post has been developed for you to distribute through your channels. This links to Easy Read resources available on the Department of Health's website.

Social tiles can be found [here](#).

## Post

## Tile

### Instagram

The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect you, your family and the community.

Australia has an approval process for vaccines to ensure they are safe and work well.

The Department of Health website has Easy Read documents available with more information.

#vaccines #COVID19vaccines #TGA #easyread

### Facebook

The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect you, your family and the community.

Australia has an approval process for vaccines to ensure they are safe and work well.

Read more about Australia's COVID-19 here:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources>

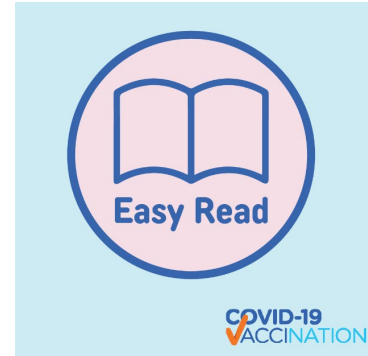
### Twitter/LinkedIn

The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect you, your family and the community.

Australia has an approval process for vaccines to ensure they are safe and work well.

The Department of Health website has Easy Read documents available with more information.

#covid19vaccines #coronavirus #easyread



**For more information call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 1800 020 080.**