

Information for Families



The COVID-19 Vaccination Program is starting in Australia now.



People who have the COVID-19 vaccination have a much lower chance of getting sick from COVID-19.



People with disability living in Level 3 Supported Accommodation and the staff who support them are in the first group to be offered the vaccine. It is the Pfizer vaccine.



The COVID-19 vaccine is free.



Health staff who have been trained to give the vaccination will come to where your family member lives to offer the vaccine to everyone who lives there as well as the staff.



It is an individual choice whether to have the COVID-19 vaccine. Your family member does not have to have the vaccine if they or their substitute decision maker does not want to.



The Commonwealth is responsible for coordinating the roll out of the vaccine to disability accommodation services and facilities.



The Commonwealth will coordinate directly with the service about when they are coming on site to offer people the first dose. Two doses are needed and a second dose will be offered at the residence.



Services are working to get ready and prepare residents, workers and the facility for what needs to happen on the day. Queenslanders with Disability Network is providing information sessions for residents about the vaccine and what is happening.



Consent needs to be given either by the person if they are able to give informed consent, or by a decision maker. The service will be following up with families/guardians or the Public Guardian to get consent if that is needed.



Prior to giving consent you and your family member can choose to talk with a GP or other health professional to discuss the benefits and risks of vaccination and if it is suitable for them to receive it.



Some people might get side effects. This could be a sore arm, headache, fever or something else. Side effects are usually not severe. More information can be found at <https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine/about/patient-info#side-effects>

If you would like further information you can:

-  talk with a GP or other health professional
-  call the Disability Gateway on 1800 643 787
-  or go to [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au)