

Fact sheet for vaccination requirements for certain disability support workers

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ON TOP OF

COVID

The Tasmanian Government knows people who work in the disability sector are doing their best to protect themselves, the people they support, and their communities from COVID-19.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is our best protection against COVID-19 and we understand that most Tasmanian disability support workers are already fully vaccinated.

There are some National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) participants who receive 'high intensity supports' who might be more at risk from COVID-19 because of things like underlying health conditions or because the supports they receive mean they cannot follow some COVID-safe behaviours.

Because we want people with disability to be as protected as possible from COVID-19, the Tasmanian Government has issued a Public Health Direction that means that on, and after, 21 November 2021 all workers providing 'high intensity supports' to NDIS participants in Tasmania must be 'sufficiently vaccinated' against COVID-19.

Disability support workers are required to provide their employers with evidence to show that they are 'sufficiently vaccinated', or have a valid vaccination medical exemption, to provide 'high intensity supports' to NDIS participants. Workers must have received their second dose by 7 January 2022.

NDIS participants receiving 'high intensity supports' do not need to do anything – it is the responsibility of the worker and provider to make sure the worker is sufficiently vaccinated.

'High intensity supports' under the Public Health Direction means:

- **Assistance with daily life tasks in a group or shared living arrangement:** for example, supporting participants who live in Supported Independent Living, group homes
- **Group and centre-based activities:** for example, supporting participants to access the community in a group, either in the community or at a centre
- **Specialist supported employment:** for example, supporting participants who work at Australisan Disability Enterprises
- **Daily personal activities:** for example, supporting participants with supports like personal care
- **Community nursing care:** for example, supporting participants with disability-related health needs
- **Therapeutic supports:** for example, supporting participants with things like occupational therapy, psychology, speech pathology.

'Sufficiently vaccinated' means someone has:

- received their second dose (fully vaccinated) of a COVID-19 vaccine; **or**
- had at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and has booked to receive the second dose as soon as possible; **or**
- has made a booking to receive the first dose of a vaccine as soon as possible, and will then receive the second dose as soon as possible after the first dose.

A worker who is required to be vaccinated under the Direction will not be considered 'sufficiently vaccinated' unless they have received their second dose by 7 January 2022.

For more information about the Vaccination requirements, including FAQs, please visit coronavirus.tas.gov.au/business-and-employees/vaccination-requirements/disability-support-workers.