

COVID-19 vaccination accommodations for autistic people

Victorian Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) can provide assistance to people with disability to access COVID-19 vaccinations at vaccination centers.

To enable DLOs to support you, you can discuss specific accommodations that can help make the vaccination process easier for you.

Below is a list of accommodations that might be helpful for autistic people to get vaccinated. You can discuss these accommodations when you contact a DLO for support to get vaccinated.

A DLO will be able to provide advice on which vaccination site will be most suitable for your needs and will help you make a booking.

Accommodations you may want to inquire about:

- A private space to be vaccinated in.
- Bringing a support person with you for all stages of the vaccination process.
- Attending a low sensory clinic.
- Attending the clinic at a quieter time
- Avoiding the queue and wait times before being vaccinated.
- Seating whilst queuing.
- A Virtual Reality (VR) headset to wear during your vaccination to help with needle fears (available at Frankston hubs, Royal Exhibition Building, Sandown Racecourse and Clayton hospital).
- A group booking.
- A longer appointment.
- Lowered lighting.
- Bringing something to distract you whilst you get vaccinated.
- A quiet space to wait in after your vaccination.

- For people who are unable to attend a vaccination clinic in person, it may be possible for DLOs to support an in-home vaccination appointment. If this is an accommodation that will help you get vaccinated, you should discuss it with the DLO.

You can contact the DLOs via email: DLOcoordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au, using the template email we have provided below.

Or you can complete this [web form](#) which requests the help of a DLO in making a vaccination appointment.

You can use the following email template when contacting the DLOs to request the accommodation(s) you need.

Subject: Booking a vaccination appointment for an autistic person

To whom it may concern

I am autistic and am trying to get vaccinated. I am located in (suburb, postcode).

I wish to receive the (Moderna/Pfizer/AstraZeneca) vaccine.

My accessibility needs are:

- *List your needs here*
- *You might use examples from the list above.*

I prefer to be contacted by (phone/email). My phone number is 0400 000 000.

Many thanks,

John Citizen.

Need more advice? Contact Autism Connect.

Contact Autism Connect for more information and advice on how you can prepare for your COVID-19 vaccination. Autism Connect is a free, national autism helpline, providing independent and expert information over phone, email and webchat. Call 1300 308 699 or visit the [Autism Connect website](#) speak to an advisor.