

Ventilation and COVID-19: Information for disability providers

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Why is ventilation important?

COVID-19 can spread quickly in poorly ventilated or crowded indoor settings where people spend time together. Adequate ventilation is an important consideration for indoor disability settings as one tool to lower the transmission risk for people with disability and workers, particularly where physical distancing and/or mask wearing is difficult to maintain.

What is the expert health advice?

Where possible, air flow should be optimised to reduce viral load within a room to minimise the risk of exposure to airborne infectious material. This may be achieved through methods such as opening windows to increase natural ventilation and the use of mechanical ventilation systems such as portable air purifiers with high efficiency particulate air filters.

Measures to improve air flow should be used in addition to other infection prevention and control measures like physical distancing, respiratory hygiene and isolating when unwell.

More details are available on the [Department of Health and Aged Care website](#).

What are my obligations as a provider?

All employers have a duty to eliminate, or minimise the risks of COVID-19 in the workplace, so far as is reasonably practicable. [More information is available on the Safe Work Australia website](#).

All NDIS providers have obligations under the NDIS Code of Conduct to provide supports and services in a safe and competent manner, with care and skill. Where registered, providers must also comply with the NDIS Practice Standards for ensuring continuity of supports for participants in safe environments. Keeping outbreak management plans up to date as part of business continuity planning is consistent with these NDIS provider obligations. Assessment of factors which may increase the spread of COVID-19 including ventilation in all service delivery and work environments, is also consistent with provider obligations.

Find out more

More information about COVID-19, including resources for providers and participants, is available on the [NDIS Commission website](#).

Further information about strategies and principles to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, including the use of ventilation as part of the hierarchy of controls is available on the [Department of Health and Aged Care website](#).