

# **National Disability Insurance Scheme**

## **COVID Addendum**

**2023-24**

**Valid from: 1 July 2023**

**Version 1.0**

**(Released 16 June 2023)**

**[ndis.gov.au](https://www.ndis.gov.au)**

**ndis**

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### Further information

Further information on the pricing arrangements for the National Disability Insurance Scheme can be found on the [NDIS website](#).

### Version Control

This document is subject to change. The latest version of this document is available on the [NDIS website](#).

Version	Page	Details of Amendment	Date Published	Date of Effect
1.0		2023-24 edition of the <i>NDIS COVID Addendum</i>	16 June 2023	1 July 2023

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## Supported Independent Living

### Additional Services for SIL Participants

**CLAIM CODE:**        **ADD\_SERVICES\_SIL\_NOT\_REMOTE**  
                               **ADD\_SERVICES\_SIL\_REMOTE**  
                               **ADD\_SERVICES\_SIL\_VERY\_REMOTE**

This COVID direct billing arrangement applies for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in this *Addendum*.

Providers should use the code relevant to the remoteness classification of the participant to whom the support is provided.

This support recognises that providers of Assistance in Supported Independent Living supports will sometimes incur additional costs in providing supports to a participant where the participant is required to self-isolate or quarantine in accordance with COVID health advice and to ensure their personal safety and wellbeing. (These costs could include additional costs of higher intensity support (staffing increase), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the support workers, professional laundering, and any other costs directly related to the participant's diagnosis including, if applicable, the costs of any alternative accommodation provided to the participant by the provider.)

A provider may make a direct billing claim for this support on behalf of all participants in the same household, per day, when:

- the participant is receiving Assistance in Supported Independent Living supports from the provider; and
- the participant is required to self-isolate or quarantine in accordance with COVID health advice and to ensure their personal safety and wellbeing; and
- the provider has incurred expenses above those usually incurred in the provision of Assistance in Supported Independent Living supports to the participant; and
- the claim date is in a period, and the participant lives in a location, that is specified in the Table of Specified Periods and Locations below.

If a provider is eligible to claim for this support in respect of all participants in the same household, then a single direct billing claim can be made in addition to the usual claim that the provider makes for the provision of Assistance in Supported Independent Living supports for those individual participants.

The specified periods and areas for this arrangement, and the maximum amount that the provider can claim per household, per day, are set out in the following Table. More detail on direct billing arrangements is on the payments and billing page of the NDIS website.

\*Note – SIL providers will be able to bill the Agency for this amount effective 11 January 2022, noting claims will be able to be lodged in the system from 7 February 2022.

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date	Amount	Amount Remote	Amount Very Remote
All	All	7 February 2022*	None specified, subject to review	\$1,200 per day, per household	\$1,680 per day, per household	\$1,800 per day, per household

## Deep Cleaning in a SIL setting

**CLAIM CODES:**      DEEP\_CLEAN\_SIL\_NOT\_REMOTE  
                              DEEP\_CLEAN\_SIL\_REMOTE  
                              DEEP\_CLEAN\_SIL\_VERY\_REMOTE

This COVID direct billing arrangement applies for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in this *Addendum*.

Providers should use the code relevant to the remoteness classification of the participant to whom the support is provided.

This support recognises that providers of Assistance in Supported Independent Living supports will sometimes incur additional costs with respect to the professional deep cleaning of a residence of a participant who is required to self-isolate or quarantine in accordance with COVID health advice and to ensure their personal safety and wellbeing.

A provider may make a direct billing claim for this support in respect of a participant (“the participant”) on a day (“the claim date”) if and only if:

- the participant is receiving Assistance in Supported Independent Living supports from the provider; and
- the participant is required to self-isolate or quarantine in accordance with COVID health advice and to ensure their personal safety and wellbeing; and
- the provider has incurred expenses in respect of the professional deep cleaning of the residence of the participant; and
- the claim date is in a period, and the participant lives in a location, that is specified in the Table of Specified Periods and Locations below.

The support is only claimable once per eligible participant per period of COVID infection.

The specified periods and areas for this arrangement, and the maximum amount that the provider can claim per eligible participant per day, are set out in the following Table. More detail on direct billing arrangements is on the payments and billing page of the NDIS website.

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date	Amount	Amount Remote	Amount Very Remote
All	All	7 February 2022	None specified, subject to review	\$300 per claim	\$420 per claim	\$450 per claim

## Rapid Antigen Testing for SIL Support Workers

### CLAIM CODE: RAPID\_ANTIGEN\_TEST\_SIL

This COVID direct billing arrangements applies for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in this *Addendum*.

This direct billing arrangement is to assist providers of Supported Independent Living supports with the costs associated with Rapid Antigen Tests undertaken to enable the provision of support to a participant.

Providers can make a claim against this direct billing arrangement when a support worker is required to undergo a Rapid Antigen Test to be able to deliver supports to a participant. That is, a provider can only claim for this support if they would be unable to deliver a support to a participant (for example, through rostering other workers) without a support worker undergoing a Rapid Antigen Test.

To claim, providers:

- must incur the expense – that is, must have paid for the Rapid Antigen Test undertaken by the support worker;
- must be delivering a support item in the Assistance with Daily Life support category in the registration group – 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement.

Where the support worker is supporting a number of participants, then the cost of the Rapid Antigen Testing should be apportioned between the participants on a pro rata basis. The total amount claimable from the NDIS through this direct billing arrangement is \$12.50 per Rapid Antigen Test.

The specified periods and areas for this arrangement are set out in the following Table. More detail on direct billing arrangements is on the payments and billing page of the NDIS website.

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	23 December 2021	31 August 2022

Note: providers will have up to 28 calendar days to bill the Agency for costs incurred once this support is removed.

## Vaccines and Boosters

### Enabling COVID Vaccinations for participants

**CLAIM CODE: PARTICIPANT\_VACCINATIONS**

This COVID direct billing arrangements applies for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in this *Addendum*.

Eligible providers can claim \$75 per participant, per dose to receive any COVID-19 vaccination, irrespective of whether it is a primary or booster vaccination, as a direct claim from the Agency.

This is an all-inclusive price that allows providers to organise the best approach for participants to receive a vaccination offsite.

To claim this payment, eligible providers:

- must provide the NDIS number and date of birth of the participant that has been vaccinated;
- obtain consent from the participant before organising a vaccination appointment;
- if requested by the Agency, be able to provide third party evidence the vaccination took place (date, location, certificate, etc.)

This support can be claimed by providers of:

- 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities
- 0106 Assistance in Coordinating or Managing Life Stages, Transitions And Supports
- 0107 Daily Personal Activities
- 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement
- 0125 Participation in Community, Social and Civic Activities
- 0127 Management of Funding for Supports in Participants' Plans
- 0133 Specialised Supported Employment
- 0136 Group and Centre Based Activities

The specified periods and areas for this arrangement are set out in the following Table. More detail on direct billing arrangements is on the payments and billing page of the NDIS website.

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	1 April 2022 for providers registered in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities</li> <li>• 0106 Assistance in Coordinating or Managing Life Stages, Transitions And Supports</li> <li>• 0107 Daily Personal Activities</li> <li>• 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement</li> <li>• 0125 Participation in Community, Social and Civic Activities</li> <li>• 0127 Management of Funding for Supports in Participants' Plans</li> <li>• 0133 Specialised Supported Employment</li> <li>• 0136 Group and Centre Based Activities</li> </ul>	Not specified, subject to review.

Note: providers will have up to 28 calendar days to bill the Agency for costs incurred once this support is removed.

## Enabling Vaccination Boosters for Workers

**CLAIM CODE: BOOSTER\_VACCINE\_DSW**

This COVID direct billing arrangements applies for the provision specified in this *Addendum*.

Registered providers can claim \$100 per worker to receive any COVID vaccine or booster (i.e., initial, booster, or other future vaccination). The item is only claimable once per worker, per Vaccine.

To claim this payment, eligible providers:

- must ensure the worker is fully vaccinated (correct number of doses have been administered);
- must provide the full name and date of birth of the worker that has been vaccinated;
- if requested by the Agency, be able to provide third party evidence the vaccination took place (date, location, certificate, etc.)

This support can be claimed by providers of:

- 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities
- 0107 Daily Personal Activities
- 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement
- 0125 Participation in Community, Social and Civic Activities

The specified periods and areas for this arrangement are set out in the following Table. More detail on direct billing arrangements is on the payments and billing page of the NDIS website.

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	1 January 2022	Not specified, subject to review

Note: providers will have up to 28 calendar days to bill the Agency for costs incurred once this support is removed.

## Support Workers

### Deep Cleaning for Support Worker-Related

**CLAIM CODE:**       DEEP\_CLEAN\_OTHER\_NOT\_REMOTE  
                           DEEP\_CLEAN\_OTHER\_REMOTE  
                           DEEP\_CLEAN\_OTHER\_VERY\_REMOTE

This COVID direct billing arrangement applies for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in this *Addendum*.

Providers should use the code relevant to the remoteness classification of the participant to whom the support is provided.

This support is claimable by a provider when a participant needs to have their residence professionally deep-cleaned because a support worker supplied by the provider attended the home of the participant to deliver a support and has later tested positive for COVID.

A provider may make a direct billing claim for this support in respect of a participant (“the participant”) on a day (“the claim date”) if and only if:

- the participant’s residence needs to be professionally deep-cleaned on a specified day (the claim date) because a support worker supplied by the provider attended the home of the participant to deliver a support and has later tested positive for COVID; and
- the provider is registered for either of the following two registration groups:
  - 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities
  - 0107 Daily Personal Activities; and
- the support that the support worker who has later tested positive for COVID was delivering to the participant was in the Assistance with Daily Life support category; and
- the provider has incurred expenses in respect of the professional deep cleaning of the residence of the participant that occurred on the claim date; and
- the claim date is in a period, and the participant lives in a location, that is specified in the Table of Specified Periods and Locations below.

The support is only claimable once per eligible participant per period of COVID infection.

The specified periods and areas for this arrangement, and the maximum amount that the provider can claim per eligible participant per day, are set out in the following Table. More detail on direct billing arrangements is on the payments and billing page of the NDIS website.

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date	Amount	Amount Remote	Amount Very Remote
All	All	7 February 2022	None specified, subject to review	\$300 per claim	\$420 per claim	\$450 per claim

## Other Measures

The following Table provides details of other mechanisms through which participants can use their NDIS funds to address COVID related issues.

Policy	Codes
<p><b>COVID Family members as paid carers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where a participant has tested positive to COVID, and where no alternative is available, and if determined to be exceptional circumstances, and at the discretion of the CEO, participant may pay family members to provide ongoing supports for a time-limited period.</li> <li>• Note, this is not a specific initiative related to COVID. Paragraph 11.1 of the Operational Guidelines specifies that the NDIA will only fund family members to provide supports in exceptional circumstances.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Low Cost Assistive Technology (AT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants can use their existing NDIS funding to purchase an item if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ it will maintain funded NDIS supports like a program, therapy or requirement (for example physiotherapy or Auslan interpreting provided via video conferencing), and</li> <li>○ the provider of supports has confirmed in writing the device is necessary to continue supports and services while maintaining physical distancing requirements, and</li> <li>○ it is the lowest specification that will maintain funded supports, and</li> <li>○ they do not already have the item, another suitable item or access to the item, and</li> <li>○ the item has not been funded by another service system (such as education), and</li> <li>○ the item or circumstances are not specifically excluded.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Participants are able to spend up to \$1500 on low cost AT items from their existing budgets. Participants should not spend more than \$750 on electronic devices needed to maintain existing services.</li> </ul>	15_222400911_0124_1_3
<p><b>Low Cost AT - COVID19: Portable Air Purifier</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants can temporarily use their existing core - consumables budget to purchase a portable air purifier to ensure safe access to NDIS funded supports in their home, where the participant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ has a disability that compromises their breathing (lung capacity) and/or puts them at increased risk of acquiring, or becoming very unwell if they acquire, Covid-19, and</li> <li>○ is at increased risk of acquiring Covid-19 due to the nature and volume of close personal supports they receive each day, and</li> <li>○ is unable (due to their disability) to effectively minimise their risk of acquiring Covid-19 by following public health advice (e.g., to wear a mask), or otherwise ensure adequate ventilation within their home or residence by other means (e.g., opening windows)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Participants are not required to provide any evidence or otherwise seek approval for any low cost AT device purchased below \$1500 in value. The expected price range of a portable air purifier varies between \$300-\$700 per unit.</li> <li>• Participants who require additional funding or believe they need to purchase a device more than \$1500 will be expected seek a plan reassessment and provide relevant evidence.</li> <li>• This temporary support item is effective from 1 October 2022 and is subject to review by the NDIA.</li> </ul>	03_090000912_0103_1_1

## Other Measures

Policy	Codes
<p><b>Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDIS participants who receive an average of at least one hour a day of face-to-face daily living supports are able to use the existing support item for Low Cost Disability-Related Health Consumables to claim the cost of PPE that they use when their disability worker is supporting them.</li> <li>• If participants need to purchase face coverings or masks for use outside the home, this is still an everyday expense.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NDIS funds cannot be used to pay for them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Participants are expected to purchase PPE at market rates.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As a general guide, the weekly cost of PPE is not expected to exceed \$50 per week.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	03_040000919_0103_1_1
<p><b>Rapid Antigen Testing for Participants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NDIS participants who have core funding are able to use the existing support item for Low Cost Disability-Related Health Consumables to claim the cost of any Rapid Antigen Test where it is required to access their reasonable and necessary supports.</li> <li>• Participants are expected to purchase Rapid Antigen Tests at market rates.</li> </ul> <p>As a general guide, the cost of a Rapid Antigen Test is not expected to exceed about \$12.50.</p>	03_040000919_0103_1_1