

COVID Addendum (Version 20210817)

Temporary COVID-19 Support Items – Designated Areas

This Addendum is effective from 29 July 2020.

This Addendum was last updated on 19 August 2021 for effect from 17 August 2021.

This Addendum specifies the designated areas and the time periods for each designated area during which the COVID-19 support items in the following Table can be claimed:

Policy	Support item
<p>1. Deep Cleaning for Support Worker-Related COVID-19 Diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This support can be used for a one-off professional deep cleaning of a residence of an eligible participant. The support is only claimable once per eligible participant. 	<p>01_795_0104_1_1 01_795_0107_1_1</p>
<p>2. Supported Independent Living (SIL) – arrangements for participants who are COVID-19 positive or who are self-isolating due to COVID-19 self isolating participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A participant living in SIL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> who is diagnosed with COVID-19 (until they are no longer infectious); OR who is not COVID-19 positive and who <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is required by government or medical authorities to self-isolate or quarantine; or is required on the advice of a medical practitioner to self-isolate or quarantine because they are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or are suspected to have come into contact with a person suspected of having contracted COVID-19; or is in isolation or quarantine while waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test or because of measures taken by government or medical authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. <p>has access to the following supports</p> <p>COVID-19 SIL Cleaning Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This support item can be used for a one-off professional deep cleaning of a residence of an eligible participant. The item is only claimable once per eligible participant. <p>COVID-19 SIL Additional Supports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The item can be claimed in addition to the usual SIL claim for the participant. The item recognises the additional costs of higher intensity support (staffing increase), Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), professional laundering, and any ancillary costs directly related to the participant's diagnosis. Note: The maximum price limit per day for an eligible participant is specified in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits and this addendum. 	<p>01_795_0115_1_1 01_796_0115_1_1</p>

Policy	Support item
<p>3. PPE for workers (claiming from plan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This support can only be claimed for personal protective equipment (PPE) used for supports that are delivered in person to participants who live in areas specified in this addendum. • In order to claim, providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ must incur the expense and have provided the participant and support workers with PPE; ○ must be delivering a support item in the Assistance with Daily Life support category in the following registration groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities ▪ 0107 Daily Personal Activities ▪ 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement; and ○ require agreement from the participant to claim additional PPE expenses against the plan. • In general, providers should not make more than one claim of up to \$27 per participant per worker, per day. However, additional support items may be claimed if supported with evidence of need. 	<p>01_797_0104_1_1 01_797_0107_1_1 01_797_0115_1_1</p>
<p>4. PPE for workers (alternative billing arrangement)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers can alternatively directly bill the NDIA for up to \$27 per participant, per day to cover the cost of PPE for supports delivered in the Assistance with Daily Life support category by providers to participants who live in areas specified in this addendum in the following registration groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities ○ 0107 Daily Personal Activities ○ 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement • In general, providers should not make more than one claim of up to \$27 per participant per worker, per day. However, additional support items may be claimed if supported with evidence of need. 	
<p>5. Enabling COVID-19 Vaccination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This support can only be claimed where Supported Independent Living (SIL) providers have organised and registered their participants for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment/s offsite. • SIL providers can claim up to a fixed price of \$150 per participant as a direct claim from the Agency. • This amount is fixed at \$150 total, regardless of how many offsite vaccination appointments are required by the participant. • This is an all-inclusive price that allows providers to organise the best approach for participants being vaccinated offsite. This may include organising the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Administration to arrange vaccination appointments, including seeking consent ○ Transport both ways in a COVID safe manner ○ Arranging appropriate staff to accompany to the appointment, including remaining with participants at the hub while the person has to wait through the sit down period. • In order to claim this payment, SIL providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ must ensure the participant is fully vaccinated (correct number of doses have been administered); ○ must provide the NDIS number and date of birth of the participant that has been vaccinated; ○ require agreement 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 	

Policy	Support item
<p>6. Provider Loading Payment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDIA will make a 10% loading payment directly to eligible providers delivering supports in areas specified in this addendum. • Providers do not need to make a payment claim. The NDIA will identify eligible providers and make payments through the NDIA's payment system. • Participant budgets will not be impacted by this payment. • To be eligible for this payment, registered providers must be delivering supports to NDIA and/or plan-managed participants in areas with additional COVID related requirements that impact on workforce costs, and have claimed NDIS supports for one of the following registration groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities ○ 0107 Daily Personal Activities ○ 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement • The 10% loading will be calculated on the last month of eligible NDIS payments received by the provider or the average of the last 3 months of eligible payments, whichever is the greater amount. • To qualify for this payment, the 10% loading amount must be \$2000 or greater. 	

Current Arrangements

Deep Cleaning and SIL Billing Arrangements

The following COVID-19 supports:

- 01_795_0104_1_1
- 01_795_0107_1_1
- 01_795_0115_1_1
- 01_796_0115_1_1

are claimable from participant plans, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits and this Addendum, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	1 October 2020	None specified, subject to review

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Workers

The following support items:

- 01_797_0104_1_1
- 01_797_0107_1_1
- 01_797_0115_1_1

are claimable from participant plans, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits and this Addendum, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	28 June 2021	None specified, subject to review

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Workers – alternative billing arrangement

This alternative direct billing arrangement is available, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits and this Addendum, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
NSW	All	26 June 2021	None specified, subject to review

Eligible providers can claim PPE for workers via either the alternative billing arrangements or via NDIS participant plans as described above. However, providers must not use both arrangements.

Note: for the alternative direct billing arrangement, providers will have up to one month to bill the Agency for costs incurred once this support is removed.

Enabling COVID-19 Vaccination

This direct billing arrangement is available, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits and this Addendum, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	26 May 2021	None specified, subject to review

Note: providers will have up to one month to bill the Agency for costs incurred once this support is removed.

Provider Loading Payment

This is a direct payment to eligible providers in areas with additional COVID related requirements that impact on workforce costs, subject to the requirements set out in this Addendum for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
NSW	Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield	17 August 2021	None specified, subject to review

Other measures

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

Policy	Support item
<p>1. COVID-19 Family members as paid carers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where a participant has tested positive to COVID-19, 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. Note, this is not a specific initiative related to COVID-19. Paragraph 11.1 of the Operational Guidelines specifies that the NDIA will only fund family members to provide supports in exceptional circumstances. 	

Policy	Support item
<p>2. Low-cost Assistive Technology (AT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants can use their existing NDIS funding to purchase an item if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ it will maintain funded NDIS supports like a program, therapy or requirement (for example physiotherapy or Auslan interpreting provided via video conferencing), and ○ the provider of supports has confirmed in writing the device is necessary to continue supports and services while maintaining physical distancing requirements, and ○ it is the lowest specification that will maintain funded supports, and ○ they do not already have the item, another suitable item or access to the item, and ○ the item has not been funded by another service system (such as education), and ○ the item or circumstances are not specifically excluded. • 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. 	<p>15_222400911_0124_1_3</p>
<p>3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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"> ○ NDIS funds cannot be used to pay for them. • Participants are expected to purchase PPE at market rates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As a general guide, the weekly cost of PPE is not expected to exceed \$50 per week. 	<p>03_040000919_0103_1_1</p>

Expired Arrangements

Support Coordination items in the Activities with Daily Life Support Category

The following support items

- 01_790_0106_8_3
- 01_791_0106_8_3
- 01_794_0132_8_3

were claimable, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
All	All	29 July 2020	28 February 2021

Participants who were claiming these items prior to 28 February 2021 were permitted to continue to claim for them until 31 March 2021.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Workers

The following support items

- 01_797_0104_1_1
- 01_797_0107_1_1
- 01_797_0115_1_1

were claimable, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
NSW	All	19 November 2020	28 February 2021
QLD	City of Brisbane	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	City of Brisbane	8 January 2021	22 January 2021
QLD	City of Gold Coast	22 August 2020	17 September 2020
QLD	City of Ipswich	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	City of Ipswich	8 January 2021	22 January 2021
QLD	Lockyer Valley Region	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	Logan City	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	Logan City	8 January 2021	22 January 2021
QLD	Moreton Bay Region	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	Moreton Bay Region	8 January 2021	22 January 2021
QLD	Redland City	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	Redland City	8 January 2021	22 January 2021
QLD	Scenic Rim Region	22 August 2020	25 September 2020

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
QLD	Somerset Region	22 August 2020	25 September 2020
QLD	Aboriginal Shire of Cherbourg	31 August 2020	17 September 2020
QLD	South Burnett Region	31 August 2020	17 September 2020
QLD	Goondiwindi Region	31 August 2020	17 September 2020
QLD	Southern Downs Region	31 August 2020	17 September 2020
QLD	Toowoomba Region	31 August 2020	17 September 2020
QLD	Western Downs Region	31 August 2020	17 September 2020
SA	All	19 November 2020	23 December 2020
VIC	All	29 July 2020	31 March 2021
WA	Peel	31 January 2021	5 February 2021
WA	Perth Metropolitan	31 January 2021	5 February 2021
WA	South West Regions	31 January 2021	5 February 2021

Note, for supports delivered between 29 July 2020 and 28 February 2021

- The price limit for this support was \$50 per participant per worker per day.
- Providers could alternately directly bill the NDIA for up to \$1.70 per hour of support delivered, per participant, up to 24 hours per day to cover the cost of PPE for supports delivered in the following Assistance with Daily Life support categories:
 - 0104 High Intensity Daily Personal Activities
 - 0107 Daily Personal Activities
 - 0115 Assistance with Daily Life Tasks in a Group or Shared Living Arrangement
- The alternative arrangement was not available from 1 March 2021 to the 27 May 2021. Providers had until 31 March 2021 to bill the Agency for costs incurred before 1 March 2021.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Workers

The following support items:

- 01_797_0104_1_1
- 01_797_0107_1_1
- 01_797_0115_1_1

and the alternative direct billing arrangement were claimable, subject to the conditions set out in the NDIS Pricing Arrangements and Price Limits, for the periods and areas (states and local government areas (LGAs)) specified in the following Table:

State	LGA	Start Date	End Date
Victoria	All	28 May 2021	30 June 2021

Note: for the alternative direct billing arrangement, providers will have up to one month to bill the Agency for costs incurred once this support is removed.