



New ATAGI statement on recommendations on a winter booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine

25 March 2022

Background

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation [ATAGI has made recommendations](#) on a winter booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine for a number of at risk population groups.

The ATAGI recommends that the rollout of the additional booster dose for these groups starts from **April 2022**, coinciding with the rollout of the 2022 influenza vaccination program.

A winter booster dose is recommended for:

- People aged 65 years and older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- [Severely immunocompromised](#) people 16 years and older
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 50 years and older

For each of these groups it is recommended that:

Individuals receive a winter booster dose either 4 months after their previous booster dose, or from 4 months after previous SARS-CoV-2 infection if this has occurred since the previous booster dose.

A winter booster dose is not recommended for:

- People under 65 years of age with medical conditions that may increase their risk of COVID-19
- Health care, aged care, and disability care workers
- All others under 65 years of age (incl. those 5 – 15 years old)

For each of these groups it is recommended individuals complete the primary schedule of the COVID-19 vaccine. For those 16 and older (i.e., excl. 5 – 15yo's) it is also recommended individuals receive a booster dose.

Other information

- Choice of vaccine aligns with [current recommendations for COVID-19 vaccine boosters](#).
- **Comirnaty (Pfizer)** or **Spikevax (Moderna)** are the preferred vaccines for COVID-19 booster doses including the additional winter booster dose. **Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca)** can be used when an mRNA vaccine is contraindicated or a person declines vaccination with an mRNA vaccine. **Nuvaxovid (Novavax)** can be used if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that person.
- The ATAGI will continue to review emerging evidence about booster vaccinations as it becomes available and will update recommendations and advice if needed.
- Influenza vaccine can be co-administered with the additional booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. However, if a person is not yet eligible for their additional booster dose, influenza vaccine could be given ahead of the additional booster dose.