



# Spikevax (Moderna) Vaccine for children 6 months to under 5 years old

ATAGI has recommended the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for those children aged 6 months to under 5 years at greatest risk from severe COVID-19.

This group includes children who are severely immunocompromised, or have a disability, as well as those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

These include children with the following or similar conditions:

- Severe primary or secondary immunodeficiency, including those undergoing treatment for cancer, or on immunosuppressive treatments as listed in the ATAGI advice on 3rd primary doses of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised<sup>1</sup>.
- Bone marrow or stem cell transplant, or chimeric antigen T-cell (CAR-T) therapy.
- Complex congenital cardiac disease.
- Structural airway anomalies or chronic lung disease.
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus.
- Chronic neurological or neuromuscular conditions.
- A disability that requires frequent assistance with activities of daily living, such as severe cerebral palsy or Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21).

The recommendation is for 2 primary doses, except for those with severe immunocompromise who require 3 primary doses. The recommended interval between each dose is 8 weeks.

ATAGI currently recommends vaccination be deferred for 3 months after a confirmed infection to provide a better immunological boost and optimise the duration of protection.

ATAGI does not currently recommend vaccination for children aged 6 months to under 5 years who are not in the risk categories for severe COVID-19. These children have a very low

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<sup>1</sup> ATAGI advice - [www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-a-third-primary-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-in-individuals-who-are-severely-immunocompromised](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-recommendations-on-the-use-of-a-third-primary-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine-in-individuals-who-are-severely-immunocompromised)

likelihood of severe illness from COVID-19. If you are unsure whether your child should receive a COVID-19 vaccination, please discuss this with a GP or other medical professional.

Children that have already turned 5 should continue to receive the vaccines that are currently approved and available.

Given the special needs of this group and the small size of the cohort to be vaccinated, only a small proportion of vaccination sites have been selected to deliver the vaccine. These sites include:

- state and territory paediatric hospital clinics
- some general practices
- some Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics and
- some Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Appointments will be available from 5 September 2022. Please visit the COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder ([covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/](https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/booking/)) from 29 August 2022 to secure an appointment. Check back regularly, as appointments will continue to be added by immunisation providers.

The Easy Vaccine Access (EVA) service is also available to book a COVID-19 vaccination. Simply message the EVA call back service on 0481 611 382 between 7 am and 10 pm (AEST), 7 days per week.

The National Coronavirus Helpline provides information about COVID-19 vaccinations by 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1800 020 080.

