



# COVID-19 VACCINATION

## ATAGI 2023 BOOSTER ADVICE\*

ATAGI 2023 Booster Advice		
Age	At risk**	No risk factors
<5 years	Not recommended	
5-17 years	Consider	Not recommended
18-64 years	Recommended	Consider
≥ 65 years	Recommended	

\*mRNA bivalent vaccines are preferred for the 2023 booster dose. For ages in which a bivalent vaccine is not approved, **use a vaccine approved for that age group**. A 2023 booster dose should be given 6 months after a person’s last dose or confirmed infection (whichever is the most recent).

\*\*Includes those with a medical condition that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness (refer to **ATAGI clinical guidance**), or those with disability with significant or complex health needs, or multiple comorbidities which increase the risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q. What if a patient missed one of their COVID-19 vaccine doses, should they receive another one?**

A. ATAGI continues to recommend a primary course<sup>1</sup> of vaccination against COVID-19, followed by a booster dose for those eligible under the updated **2023 booster dose recommendations**.

This is irrespective of how many booster doses a patient has had in the past. We are no longer numbering booster doses and a “catch-up” schedule is not required if they missed a booster dose (i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> booster doses).

If their last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection was 6 months ago or longer, and eligible as per the table above, a patient can be given a **2023 booster dose**.

**Q. What if a patient has already completed a primary course and received two booster doses, should they receive another one?**

A. ATAGI continues to recommend a primary course of vaccination against COVID-19, followed by a booster dose for those eligible under the updated 2023 booster dose recommendations.

A patient can have a **2023 booster dose** if their last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection was 6 months ago or longer, regardless of the number of prior doses received.

**Q. My patient is under 65 years of age however wants to receive another COVID-19 booster. Can I give them one?**

A. ATAGI advises that all adults aged 18-64 years without risk factors for severe COVID-19 can **consider** a 2023 booster dose if their last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection was 6 months ago or longer, regardless of the number of prior doses received, based on an individual risk-benefit assessment with their immunisation provider.

**Q. I'm not sure about how many COVID-19 vaccine doses my patient is recommended to have?**

A. We are no longer numbering booster doses.

A **2023 booster dose** is recommended for eligible people if their last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection was 6 months ago or longer as per the updated **2023 booster dose recommendations**. This is irrespective of how many booster doses a patient has had in the past.

**Q. What is the recommended interval between the last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and the 2023 booster dose?**

A. The recommended interval between the last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection and the 2023 booster dose is 6 months or longer (from whichever is the most recent), regardless of the number of prior doses received.

**Q. How do I know if a patient has had COVID-19 in the last six months?**

A. The patient should be able to tell you if they have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last six months. There are no safety concerns for individuals receiving a COVID-19 vaccine who may have had undetected SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 6 months. Administrators should use their clinical judgement before vaccinating any patient.

**Q. My patient has had COVID-19-like symptoms in the past, but SARS-CoV-2 infection was not confirmed with PCR or RAT. Is it safe for them to have the 2023 booster dose?**

A. Although it is recommended to defer vaccination for 6 months following a **confirmed** SARS-CoV-2 infection, with the decrease in testing rates there are likely to have been many people with **undetected** SARS-CoV-2 infection within recent months. There are no safety concerns for individuals receiving a COVID-19 vaccine who may have had undetected SARS-CoV-2 infection within the past 6 months.

**Q. How does my patient choose which booster vaccine is most suitable for them?**

A. Regarding vaccine choice, all currently available COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to provide benefit as a booster dose, however bivalent mRNA booster vaccines are preferred over other vaccines. These include: Pfizer Original/Omicron BA.4-5, as well as Pfizer Original/Omicron BA.1 or Moderna Original/Omicron BA.1. You can find the full statement [here](#).

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<sup>i</sup> Primary course vaccination recommendations

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people aged 5 years or older to protect against COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for children aged 6 months to under 5 years with severe immunocompromise, disability, and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

For most people, a primary vaccination course consists of 2 doses.

A third primary dose is recommended for people aged 6 months or older with severe immunocompromise.

[Clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#) | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care