



COVID-19 VACCINATION

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Disability provider alert

10 February 2023

ATAGI 2023 booster advice

ATAGI [recommends](#) a 2023 COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for:

- all adults aged 65 years and over
- adults aged 18-64 years who have:
 - medical comorbidities that increase their risk of severe COVID-19, or
 - disability with significant or complex health needs.

These people can receive the 2023 booster if their last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection was 6 months ago or longer. This is for whichever is the most recent, and regardless of the number of prior doses received.

ATAGI advises the following groups should **consider** a 2023 booster dose if their last dose or confirmed infection was 6 months ago or longer (whichever is the most recent), regardless of the number of prior doses received:

- all adults aged 18-64 years without risk factors for severe COVID-19
- children and adolescents aged 5-17 years who have:
 - medical comorbidities that increase their risk of severe COVID-19, or
 - disability with significant or complex health needs.

People should make this decision based on their individual risk-benefit assessment with their immunisation provider.

ATAGI advises that a booster dose is **not recommended** at this time for children and adolescents aged 17 years or under who do not have risk factors for severe COVID-19.

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	

2023 booster dose rollout

The 2023 booster dose rollout will start on 20 February 2023.

All currently available COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to give benefit as a booster dose, however bivalent mRNA booster vaccines are preferred over other vaccines. These include:

- Pfizer Original/Omicron BA.4/5, and Pfizer Original/Omicron BA.1
- Moderna Original/Omicron BA.1.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration is evaluating Moderna Original/Omicron BA.4/5.

Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.1 vaccines are only registered for use in people aged 18 years or older. The Pfizer bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4/5 vaccine is registered for use from 12 years of age.

For more information on which vaccines are available for each age group refer to the [COVID-19 vaccine doses and administration](#) webpage.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Consistent with the [National COVID-19 Health Management Plan](#) in December 2022, primary care clinicians such as general practitioners and pharmacists will continue to be the main providers of COVID-19 vaccines in disability accommodation settings.

We ask disability service providers that previously used The Vaccine Administration Partners Program (VAPP), not to approach VAPP providers directly. If you need COVID-19 vaccination support, please email DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@Health.gov.au.

We will liaise with the relevant Primary Health Network to determine what assistance is available through primary care providers in your area in the first instance.

Ventilation: to help lower transmission risk of COVID-19

It's important to consider good ventilation in indoor disability settings. The [Australian Health Principal Protection Committee](#) advises that adequate airflow may limit the spread of COVID-19 in indoor environments. This is particularly true in crowded, inadequately ventilated spaces where infected persons may spend time with others.

The World Health Organization advises that the risk of COVID-19 spreading indoors may be reduced through well-designed, maintained, and operational ventilation systems. Proper use of natural ventilation (such as enabling airflow through open windows) may provide the same benefits. You can find practical advice on how to improve indoor ventilation on [the Victorian Government Website](#).

The Department of Social Services developed a [fact sheet](#) for disability providers on ventilation and COVID-19. More information on employer responsibilities is available on the [Safe Work Australia website](#).

The National Disability Insurance Agency has a range of COVID-19 measures for NDIS participants and providers. This includes the ability for eligible participants to buy a portable air purifier through their NDIS plan funding. This will help to improve air quality in key living areas and help to ensure continuity of supports. For more information see [Flexible low cost AT for support continuity | NDIS](#).

Support for people with disability, providers, carers and families

Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787** - open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.

Department of Health and Aged Care website at www.health.gov.au

National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on **1800 020 080**. People with disability, their families and carers should choose Option 5, disability workers should choose Option 4.

For information in a language other than English, choose Option 8. This is a free service.

The Translating and Interpreting Service is also available on **131 450**.

For people who are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

Don't miss the latest news and updates about COVID-19 and other health matters – follow [the Department of Health and Aged Care on Facebook](#).