COVID-19 vaccine booster doses

21 February 2023

Booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine maintain your protection against COVID-19

Like many vaccines, immunity from COVID-19 vaccines reduce over time. New variants of COVID-19 are also very good at evading people's immunity. To make sure you are protecting yourself and your family against getting very sick from COVID-19, stay up to date with all COVID-19 vaccinations recommended for your age or individual health needs.

You should get a booster dose if:

- you are aged 18 years and older
- you had your last COVID-19 vaccine dose at least **6 months ago**.

Some children aged 5 to 17 years are recommended to get a booster dose if they:

- are severely immunocompromised
- have a disability with significant or complex health needs
- have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase their risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

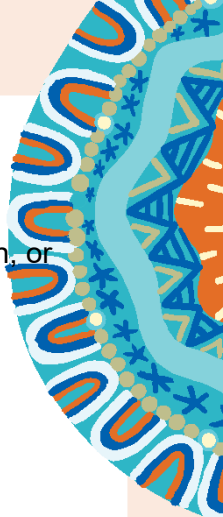## What COVID-19 vaccine can I get as a booster dose?

Some children aged 5 to 17 years, and everyone 18 years and older, can have the Pfizer and Novavax vaccine as a booster dose. If you are 18 years and older, you can have the Pfizer or the Moderna vaccine as a booster dose, regardless of which vaccine you had for your first 2 doses.

Why do I need to get aCOVID-19 vaccine booster dose?

A booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for everyone aged 50 years and older, and people aged 18 years and older at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. A booster dose should be given at least **6 months** after your last dose. Getting a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine will help maintain your protection against the virus.

People who should get a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose are:

- People aged 50 years and older
- Residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- People 18 years and older if they:
    - are immunocompromised

- have or survived certain cancers
- have an autoimmune disease requiring treatment
- have a chronic or severe disease that affects their lungs, liver, kidneys, brain, or heart
- have diabetes requiring medication
- have a disability with significant or complex health needs
- are severely overweight or underweight.

People aged 30 to 49 years can also receive a booster dose if they choose.

I am immunocompromised and have already had four doses How many doses should I have?

People who are severely immunocompromised are recommended to receive an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This is to maximise protection against getting very sick from COVID-19. If you are severely immunocompromised and 12 to 15 years, you should have 4 doses. If you are severely immunocompromised and aged 16 years or older, you should have 5 doses.

I have had COVID-19. When should I get my next dose?

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, it is recommended that you wait **6 months** before getting your next COVID-19 vaccine. Waiting 6 months between when you test positive for COVID-19 and your next vaccine dose is likely to give you more protection from the virus for longer.

Where can I find more information?

For more information, visit www.health.gov.au or call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080. For more information about who is eligible for third and fourth doses, download the '**When to get your COVID-19 vaccination**' infographic from the [Department of Health and Aged Care website](#), or have a yarn with your healthcare worker.

Where can I book my vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines, including booster doses are free for everyone and available at doctors, health clinics and participating pharmacies.

To book your next COVID-19 vaccine dose, yarn to your local healthcare worker or use the [COVID-19 Clinic Finder](#).

You can also easily book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment by using **the Easy Vaccine Access (EVA) service**. EVA is a call back service that is available every day from 7am to 10pm (AEST). Send a text message with 'Hey EVA' to 0481 611 382, and include:

- your name
- preferred date and time for your call back
- best number for a call back.

A trained operator from the National Coronavirus Helpline will call you back at the scheduled time to help you book your COVID-19 vaccination.