Keep your disability workforce up to date by circulating this alert widely in your organisation

# Disability provider alert

28 February 2023

## Moderna (Spikevax) Bivalent Original/Omicron BA.4-5 COVID-19 vaccine

On 17 February 2023, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) provisionally [approved](https://www.tga.gov.au/media-release/modernas-covid-19-vaccine-spikevax-provisionally-approved-use-individuals-6-years-and-older) the Moderna COVID-19 Bivalent (Original/Omicron BA.4/BA.5) booster dose vaccine. Following this, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has provided the following [recommendations](https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-recommendations-on-use-of-the-moderna-bivalent-originalomicron-ba45-covid-19-vaccine?language=en):

* the Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 vaccine can be used in eligible adolescents and adults aged 12 years and older who are recommended (or advised to consider) a COVID-19 booster dose according to [ATAGI 2023 Booster Advice.](https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-2023-booster-advice?language=en)
* all available COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to provide benefit as a booster dose. However, bivalent booster vaccines, including the Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 vaccine and Pfizer Bivalent BA.4-5 vaccine, are preferred over other vaccines.
* the Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 vaccine is **not registered** for use in children aged under 12 years or as a primary course vaccination.
  + - * currently the Pfizer 5-11 years vaccine, is the only [available COVID-19 vaccine](https://www.tga.gov.au/products/covid-19/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-provisional-registrations) for use in this age group.

The Australian Government will include the Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program for boosters in people aged 12 years or older from **April 2023.**

### ATAGI 2023 Booster Advice

| **Age** | [At risk](https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance/clinical-recommendations) | **No risk factors** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| <5 years | **Not recommended** | |
| 5-17 years | **Consider** | **Not recommended** |
| 18-64 years | **Recommended** | **Consider** |
| ≥ 65 years | **Recommended** | |

## COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Consistent with the [National COVID-19 Health Management Plan](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-covid-19-health-management-plan-for-2023) 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](mailto:DisabilityCovidVaccineDelivery@Health.gov.au).

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

## Halton Review: COVID-19 Vaccine and Treatment Procurement

The Halton Review was commissioned to ensure all eligible people in Australia have access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, now and into the future.

The Government has carefully considered Professor Halton’s review and fully accepted seven of the eight recommendations contained in her report. A recommendation relating to the National Medical Stockpile has been partially accepted.

Professor Halton’s recommendations included the need for public health campaigns around:

* vaccine uptake
* an updated COVID-19 policy framework
* the streamlining of advisory structures
* a review of vaccine distribution arrangements, and
* the need to ensure enough supplies of therapeutics and vaccines across 2023 and 2024.

Professor Halton’s report and the Government’s response is available [here](https://www.health.gov.au/news/release-of-the-australian-governments-response-to-the-review-of-covid-19-vaccine-and-treatment-purchasing-and-procurement?language=en).

## 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](http://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](https://www.facebook.com/healthgovau).