



Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

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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](#) 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](#):

- 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](#).
- 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](#) 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	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](#) 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 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](#).

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](#).