



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Disability Provider Alert

6 September 2023

UPDATED 2023 COVID-19 BOOSTER ADVICE

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have updated their **recommendations** on the use of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine in 2023.

This advice provides guidance about who should consider receiving an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in 2023. The full [ATAGI update](#) can be found on the Department of Health and Aged Care website (www.health.gov.au).

Key points:

- All adults aged 75 years or older **should receive** an additional 2023 COVID-19 vaccine dose if 6 months have passed since their last dose.
- The following adults should **consider** an additional 2023 COVID-19 vaccine dose if it has been 6 months since their last dose, after discussion with their healthcare provider:
 - all adults aged 65 to 74 years, and/or
 - adults aged 18 to 64 years with **severe immunocompromise**.

Age	2023 COVID-19 booster dose (February 2023 guidance)		Additional 2023 COVID-19 booster dose (September 2023 guidance)	
	At risk [#]	No risk factors	At risk [#]	No risk factors
<5 years	Not recommended	Not recommended	Not recommended	Not recommended
5-17 years	Consider	Not recommended	Not recommended	Not recommended
18-64 years	Recommended	Consider	Consider if severe immunocompromise [^]	Not recommended
65-74 years	Recommended	Recommended	Consider	Consider
≥ 75 years	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended	Recommended

Within the above groups, an additional 2023 COVID-19 vaccine is likely to be of most benefit for people who:

- have **no known history of COVID infection** (and therefore are unlikely to have protection from hybrid immunity),
- have **conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19, or disability with significant or complex health needs**, or
- **reside in a residential aged care facility.**

ATAGI continues to encourage all adults who were recommended to have a COVID-19 vaccine dose in February 2023, and who have not yet had one, to receive a vaccine dose as soon as possible.

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Primary care clinicians such as general practitioners and pharmacists will continue to be the main providers of COVID-19 vaccines in disability accommodation settings. This is consistent with the [National COVID-19 Health Management Plan](#).

If you need COVID-19 vaccination support, please email the Department:

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.

Support for people with disability, providers, carers, and families Disability Gateway 1800 643 787, open 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 3.

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](#).