|  Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care logo | AUSTRALIAN TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP ON IMMUNISATION (ATAGI)CLINICAL ADVICE |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Issue date: 27 March 2025** |

STATEMENT ON COVID-19 VACCINE ADMINISTRATION IN 2025

It is important to read this statement in conjunction with the COVID-19 chapter of the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/covid-19), available at immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au

## Key points for 2025

* Vaccination remains an important measure to protect those at risk of severe disease from COVID-19.
* All adults are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine every 12 months.
* Adults aged 75 years and over, including aged care residents, have the highest risk of severe COVID-19 including death, and are recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccines every 6 months.
* The current COVID-19 vaccines available for use are Comirnaty JN.1 and Omicron XBB.1.5-containing vaccines.
* COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered with any other vaccine for people aged ≥5 years.
* All vaccinations must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR).

## ATAGI recommendations

A summary of advice is at **Table 1**. The Australian Immunisation Handbook [COVID-19 chapter](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/covid-19#recommendations) has further details, including recommendations for people who have never received a COVID-19 vaccine (a ‘primary course’).

COVID-19 recommendations are reviewed annually, or earlier if new evidence emerges or epidemiology changes.

ATAGI **recommends** a COVID-19 vaccine dose every **6 months** for**:**

* Adults aged ≥75 years**.**

ATAGI **recommends** a COVID-19 vaccine dose every **12 months for:**

* Adults aged 65—74 years
* Adults aged 18—64 years with severe immunocompromise.

These groups are also **eligible** for a dose every **6 months**, based on a benefit-risk assessment. A dose every six months is most likely to benefit people with medical risk conditions and/or those living in residential aged care homes.

The following groups are **eligible** to receive a COVID-19 vaccine every **12 months**, based on a benefit-risk assessment:

* All other adults aged 18—64 years
* Children and adolescents aged 5—<18 years with severe immunocompromise.

Vaccination reduces the risk of severe disease and death from COVID-19.

For those individuals **recommended** to receive COVID-19 vaccination, the risks of severe disease from COVID-19 are highest and the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks for the defined population.

For those individuals **eligible** to receive COVID-19 vaccination, the risk of severe disease from COVID-19 is lower than the **recommended** groups, however individuals in this group can choose (are eligible) to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and are encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with their healthcare provider.

**Table 1: Timing of further COVID-19 vaccine doses by age group and risk status**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age | With severe immunocompromise# | Without severe immunocompromise# |
| ≥ 75 years | Recommended every 6 months | Recommended every 6 months |
| 65-74 years | Recommended every 12 months and are eligible for a dose every 6 months | Recommended every 12 months and are eligible for a dose every 6 months |
| 18-64 years | Recommended every 12 months and are eligible for a dose every 6 months | Eligible for a dose every 12 months |
| 5-17 years | Eligible for a dose every 12 months | Not recommended |
| <5 years | Not recommended | Not recommended |

#See the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](https://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/contents/vaccine-preventable-diseases/covid-19) for definitions and examples of severe immunocompromise

“Recommended”: benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks for the defined population.

“Eligible”: eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine, and individuals encouraged to discuss their individual circumstances with their healthcare provider.

**Table 2. COVID-19 vaccines registered and available for use in Australia in March 2025, by age groups**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Vaccines Recommended age groups  | Comirnaty JN.1 vaccines | Comirnaty Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines |
| 6 month – <5 years formulation (yellow cap) | 5 – <12 years formulation (light blue cap) | ≥12 years formulation (dark grey cap) | ≥12 years formulation pre-filled syringe | 6 month – <5 years formulation (maroon cap) | 5 – <12 years formulation (light blue cap) | ≥12 years formulation (dark grey cap) |
| ≥12 years |  |  | ü | ü |  |  | ü |
| 5 to 11 years |  | ü |  |  |  | ü |  |
| 6 months to <5 years | ü |  |  |  | ü |  |  |

Ticks indicate age at which a vaccine is registered and available. Blank cells indicate that the vaccine is not available for that age group.

## COVID-19 vaccines funding

COVID-19 vaccinations are funded for all recommended and eligible individuals, including those without a Medicare card.