



## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# COVID-19 Winter dose information for senior Australians

Information current as at 28 March 2022

Staying up to date with the recommended COVID-19 vaccinations will continue to protect you from the risks of serious illness, hospitalisation or death from COVID-19.

This is particularly important as we approach the winter season, and with the potential for new variants of COVID-19 to be introduced into the community.

The expert Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends an [additional COVID-19 booster](#) before winter for people considered at most risk from the impacts of COVID-19:

- people aged 65 years and older
- people who are severely immunocompromised
- residents of aged care and disability facilities, and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

Noting that vaccinations can wane over time, the recommended COVID-19 Winter dose will bolster your immunity for optimal protection over the winter season.

### How to book your COVID-19 Winter dose

From 4 April 2022, you can receive your COVID-19 Winter dose **from 4 months** after your initial booster dose.

If you have not yet received your primary course or booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, please consider booking in your appointment as quickly as possible.

**Book your vaccination appointment through the COVID-19 [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) at:**

- **Primary care clinics** – including GP clinics, pharmacies, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services.
- Care recipients with **mobility challenges** are encouraged to contact their GP or pharmacist to discuss options for a home visit to receive a vaccination.
- State and territory vaccination clinics.

You can also call the dedicated COVID-19 **Helpline on 1800 020 080 (select option 2)** for any questions about vaccination and for assistance on how to book an appointment. For interpreting services please call **131450**.

### You can get your COVID-19 Winter Dose with your annual flu vaccination

It is also important to get your annual flu vaccination before the winter season.

ATAGI advises it is safe to get your COVID-19 Winter dose and flu vaccination together.

However, if you are not yet eligible for your additional COVID-19 Winter booster dose, you can get your flu vaccine ahead of the COVID-19 Winter dose.

If you normally get your annual flu vaccination through a primary care provider, such as a GP or pharmacy, you can ask them if they can give you both vaccinations at the same appointment.

You can only book a COVID-19 vaccination at state and territory vaccination clinics.

### **Which vaccine can you get for your COVID-19 Winter dose?**

Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) are the preferred vaccines for COVID-19 booster doses including the additional winter booster dose.

Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) can be used when an mRNA vaccine is contraindicated or a person declines vaccination with an mRNA vaccine.

Nuvaxovid (Novavax) can be used if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that person.

### **If I recently got COVID-19, can I still get the Winter dose?**

The additional winter booster dose can be given from 4 months or longer after the person has received their first booster dose, or from 4 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, if infection occurred since the person's first COVID-19 booster dose.

For more information please speak to your doctor or other health professional or visit the Department of Health website at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)