Updates to the COVID-19 vaccination program

10 May 2022

Australia's immunisation experts, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have updated their recommendations on the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Time between first and second primary doses of Pfizer and Moderna

ATAGI now recommends the time between the first and second primary doses of the Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna) vaccines be **8 weeks**. Waiting 8 weeks between the first and second dose helps to improve the effectiveness of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines against severe illness from COVID-19.

The time between the first two doses can be shorter for people at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, such as older adults and people with underlying medical conditions. It can also be reduced if there is an outbreak, or before international travel.

The recommended time between your second dose and all further doses needed, such as third doses, booster doses and winter doses, will remain the same. For more information about when you should receive your next COVID-19 vaccine dose, visit www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages.

Keeping up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations following a COVID-19 infection

ATAGI recommends after testing positive for COVID-19, you should wait **3 months** before receiving your next COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Waiting 3 months between when you tested positive for COVID-19 and your next COVID-19 vaccine dose is likely to lead to a better immune response and provide more protection from the virus for longer.

This recommendation is based on the lower risk of reinfection from the COVID-19 Omicron variant, which has been the dominant variant of COVID-19 in Australia in 2022.

This recommendation may change if new variants of COVID-19 are found in Australia.

For more information, visit www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages or call the National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080. Select option 8 for free interpreting services.

health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages