# COVID-19 vaccination information for senior Australians – are you up to date?

Information current as at 7 July 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.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends all individuals aged 16 years and over receive a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to maintain an ‘up-to-date’ status.

You are eligible to receive your initial booster dose if you received your second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine 3 or more months ago.

ATAGI also recommends an [additional COVID-19 winter booster](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/expanded-atagi-recommendations-on-winter-covid-19-booster-doses-for-people-at-increased-risk-of-severe-covid-19) for people considered at most risk from the impacts of COVID-19, including people aged 50 years and older.

You can receive your COVID-19 Winter dose from 3 months after:

* your initial booster dose, or
* a confirmed COVID-19 infection, if infection occurred since the person’s first COVID-19 booster dose

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

Protection from vaccinations can wane over time. The recommended COVID-19 Winter dose will bolster your immunity for optimal protection over the winter season.

COVID-19 vaccinations are free, safe and effective.

**Book your vaccination appointment through the COVID-19** [Vaccine Clinic Finder](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder) **at:**

* **Primary care clinics** – including GPs, 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.

Call the dedicated **COVID-19** **Helpline on**[**1800 020 080**](tel:%201800020080)**(select option 2) for** any questions about vaccination and for assistance on how to book an appointment.

For interpreting services please call **131450.**

## Is a COVID-19 Winter vaccine dose the same as a booster dose?

No. A COVID-19 Winter vaccine dose is **in addition** to the recommended booster dose (which can be 3 or more months after completing a primary course of a COVID-19 vaccine).

ATAGI recommends the additional COVID-19 Winter vaccine dose to people who have received their initial booster dose and who are particularly vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19:

* people aged 50 years and older
* people who are severely immunocompromised
* residents of aged care and disability facilities
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older
* People aged 16 -64 years:
  + who have [a medical condition](file:///C:\Users\Clarsu\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\N0CIOPD9\Expanded%20ATAGI%20recommendations%20on%20winter%20COVID-19%20booster%20doses%20for%20people%20at%20increased%20risk%20of%20severe%20COVID-19%20|%20Australian%20Government%20Department%20of%20Health) that increases the risk of severe COVID-19 illness
  + living with a disability with significant or complex health needs or multiple comorbidities which increase risk of poor outcome from COVID-19.

## Can I get a COVID-19 and flu vaccination at the same time?

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

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.

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

## If I’ve recently had COVID-19, can I still get the Winter dose?

The additional Winter dose can be given from 3 months or longer after the person has received their first booster dose, or from 3 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection if your infection occurred after you received the first COVID-19 booster dose.

## I am severely immunocompromised and have received three doses and a booster. Should I still get the Winter vaccine dose?

Yes, it is recommended. Immunocompromised people who have received three primary doses and a booster of a COVID-19 vaccine can receive a Winter vaccine dose from 3 months after the initial booster or from 3 months after a COVID-19 infection if this occurred since the person’s first COVID-19 booster dose.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information visit the Department of Health website section on the [[COVID-19 vaccine program for aged care](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/information-for-aged-care-providers-workers-and-residents-about-covid-19-vaccines)](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/information-for-aged-care-providers-workers-and-residents-about-covid-19-vaccines/in-home-and-community-aged-care-recipients-workers-and-providers) or call the COVID-19 Helpline on **1800 020 080** (select option 2,or for interpreting services select option 8).