



ATAGI COVID-19 Vaccination Guide

ATAGI COVID-19 Vaccination Guide: as of 20 February 2023 Primary course guidance

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people aged 5 years or older to protect against COVID-19. For most people, a primary vaccination course consists of 2 doses. See table below for further primary course guidance.

Age	Primary COVID-19 vaccination course	
	No risk factors	At risk
6 months to 5 years	Not recommended	Vaccination recommended only for those who are at greatest risk of severe outcomes (severe immunocompromise, complex or multiple health conditions, or disability with significant or complex health needs). See ATAGI advice [#]
5 to 17 years	2 doses recommended	3 doses recommended for those who are severely immunocompromised*
18 to 64 years		
≥ 65 years		

[#][ATAGI recommendations on COVID-19 vaccine use in children aged 6 months to <5 years](#) and [ATAGI recommendations on use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 6 months to 4 years](#).

*Severe immunocompromise: see [ATAGI recommendations on the use of a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised](#) for advice on conditions associated with severe immunocompromise.

NOTE: Pfizer original or Novavax are preferred for people aged 12 to 60 years. In addition to Pfizer original or Novavax, AstraZeneca may be used in people over 60 years. See: [COVID-19 vaccine comparison table](#).

NOTE: bivalent vaccines should not be used in the primary course.

2023 booster dose guidance

For individuals who have had their most recent COVID-19 vaccine or infection at least 6 months ago, ATAGI recommends that those aged 65 or over should receive a 2023 booster dose, and advises that those aged 5-64 years should receive, or consider a booster dose, depending on their individual risk as outlined in the table below. COVID-19 vaccine can be co-administered with influenza and other vaccines. Administration of a 2023 COVID-19 booster dose should aim to occur prior to June 2023.

Age	2023 booster advice	
	No risk factors	At risk [^]
<5 years	Not recommended	
5 to 17 years	Not recommended	Consider
18 to 64 years	Consider	Recommended
≥ 65 years	Recommended	

[^]At risk: in regards to 2023 booster doses, people at risk of severe COVID-19 disease are those who have medical comorbidities that increase their risk of severe COVID-19, or disability with significant or complex health needs.

Is my patient eligible for a 2023 booster dose?

Has the patient completed a primary course of COVID-19 vaccination?	YES ↓	NO → complete primary course (see table - primary COVID-19 vaccination course)
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Was the last dose of COVID-19 vaccine (primary or booster) or most recent COVID-19 infection (whichever is most recent) >6 months ago?	YES ↓	NO → advise patient when their booster will be due (if in eligible age and risk group)
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How old is the patient?

65 years or older: Recommend 2023 booster dose	18 - 64 years: If risk factors present: recommend 2023 booster dose If no risk factors: consider 2023 booster dose	12 - 17 years: If risk factors present: consider 2023 booster dose If no risk factors: booster not recommended (do not give)	5 - 11 years: If risk factors present: consider 2023 booster dose If no risk factors: booster not recommended (do not give)	< 5 years: Booster not recommended (do not give)
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Approved vaccine:			
Pfizer bivalent BA.4-5 (grey cap) Pfizer bivalent BA.1 (grey cap)	Pfizer bivalent BA.4-5 (grey cap)	Preferred vaccine: Pfizer 5-11 years (orange top).	
Alternative vaccine: Pfizer original (purple cap) Although not preferred, AstraZeneca or Novavax COVID-19 vaccines can be used in people aged 18 years and older who have a contraindication to mRNA vaccines.	Alternative vaccine: Pfizer original (purple cap)		

Pfizer vaccines for people aged 5 years and over

Vaccine name	Pfizer original (COMIRNATY) 12 years and older	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 5 to 11 years	Pfizer Bivalent BA.1 (COMIRNATY) 18 years and older	Pfizer Bivalent BA.4-5 (COMIRNATY) 12 years and older
Cap colour	Purple cap	Orange cap	Grey cap	Grey cap
Approved age	12 years and older	5 to 11 years	18 years and older	12 years and older
Approved for	Primary and booster doses	Primary and booster doses	Booster doses only	Booster doses only
Dose volume	0.3mL	0.2mL	0.3mL	0.3mL
Doses per vial	6	10	6	6
Dilution required	YES	YES	NO	NO

This summary table is provided as a guide. Clinicians should refer directly to ATAGI advice when determining vaccine eligibility, types and schedules.



Aboriginal Health Council
of Western Australia

450 Beaufort Street, Highgate, WA 6003
Ph: (08) 9227 1631 | Fax: (08) 9228 1099
f AHCWA | t THEAHCWA
www.ahcwa.org.au