



Know the facts!

Information about COVID-19 vaccines can be confusing and incorrect information may be shared. Always make sure you get the facts from reliable sources.

Why should I have a COVID-19 vaccine?

A COVID-19 vaccine strengthens your immunity and provides protection against severe disease and death in people of all ages.

Protection provided by COVID-19 vaccines reduces over time, so further COVID-19 vaccines help to boost your protection against new variants.

Staying up to date with your vaccinations protects you, your family and friends from the spread of the virus, especially those at [higher risk of serious illness](#). New vaccines have been developed to target more current strains or 'subvariants' of the COVID-19 virus.

Who should have a COVID-19 vaccine?

At least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people aged 18 years and over. Vaccination is also recommended for anyone aged 6 months and over with severe immunocompromise.

Who should have further COVID-19 vaccines?

Some people are recommended a further COVID-19 vaccine to maintain protection against severe illness. The information below is in line with the latest [ATAGI advice](#).

Adults

75 years or older

You are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose if 6 months have passed since your last dose.

65 to 74 years

You are recommended to receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months and can consider having it every 6 months.

18 to 64 years

If you are severely immunocompromised, it is recommended you receive an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months and can consider having it every 6 months.

If you are not severely immunocompromised, you can consider receiving an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months.

Children

5 to 17 years

Severely immunocompromised children can consider receiving an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose every 12 months.

If your child is not severely immunocompromised, it is not recommended to have an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose.

Less than 5 years

COVID-19 vaccine doses are not currently recommended for children aged less than 5 years.

Speak to your healthcare provider if you are not sure whether you or your child should have additional COVID-19 vaccine dose. For more information, see [ATAGI's latest advice](#).

What COVID-19 vaccines are used?

A messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine made by Pfizer is approved to be used in Australia.

It doesn't matter which COVID-19 vaccine you had for earlier doses.

Do I need a COVID-19 vaccine if I've already had COVID-19?

Even if you've had COVID-19 before, you can catch the virus again as it spreads easily. To strengthen your immunity and protect those around you, you should stay up to date with your recommended vaccinations.

Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?

COVID-19 vaccines are available across NSW from Aboriginal Medical Services, GP clinics and pharmacies.

Many places offer walk-ins. You may also book your appointment at [Find a COVID-19 vaccine clinic near you | healthdirect](#).

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Are there side effects?

The most common side effects of COVID-19 vaccines include pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever. These symptoms are temporary and usually go away without treatment in 1-2 days. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can be taken to reduce side effects.

How can potential side effects after vaccination be reported?

Both individuals and their healthcare providers can report side effects to the relevant state or territory health authority or [directly to the Therapeutic Goods Administration](#).

Can I still get a COVID-19 vaccine if I'm pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to get pregnant?

Yes, it is safe for COVID-19 vaccines to be administered during pregnancy, while breastfeeding or when planning pregnancy.

Unvaccinated pregnant women are at increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19. Pregnant women who have previously been vaccinated can discuss with their healthcare provider whether to have an additional dose during their pregnancy, based on an individual risk-benefit assessment.

Will I need more COVID-19 vaccines doses?

It is likely that people will need further COVID-19 vaccine doses in the future, but the timing and frequency of future doses is not yet known. This will depend on factors such as infection rates, new variants and vaccine availability. The evidence for recommendations is constantly being reviewed.

Steps to protect yourself and your community:



Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations.



Stay at home if you have cold or flu symptoms. Wear a mask if you need to leave home.



Talk with your doctor now if you are at higher risk. You may need a PCR test and be eligible for antivirals.



Don't visit people who are at higher risk if you have COVID-19 or have cold or flu symptoms.



You may be required to wear a mask in high-risk settings.



Practice good hand hygiene, including handwashing.

Further information

If you have any questions about getting vaccinated, speak to your doctor, nurse, Aboriginal Medical Service, Aboriginal Health Worker or pharmacist about what is best for you.

Recommendations may change over time. Check the [ATAGI recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses](#) website for the latest information.