



# COVID-19 vaccines: ATAGI approves Moderna for 6-11 year-olds

Current as of 23 February 2022

## Key messages

- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has approved the Moderna vaccine for individuals aged 6-11 years.
- The decision has been endorsed by the Therapeutic Goods Administrator (TGA) and follows ATAGI approval for the use of Moderna in Australians aged 12 years and older on 3 September 2021.
- Children aged 6-11 years will receive a half dose (0.25mL) compared to those aged 12 and older.
- Children who turn 12 after their first dose should receive the adult dose of the Moderna vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course.
- ATAGI recommend a course of two doses, administered at least 8 weeks apart for individuals aged 6-11 years.
- The interval can be shortened to a minimum of 4 weeks, for children at risk of moderate to severe COVID-19 in special circumstances.
- Preliminary data suggests the Moderna vaccine elicits strong antibody responses, with most side effects presenting as mild to moderate. ATAGI advises that these side effects may be more common than those following the Pfizer vaccine.
- ATAGI do not recommend the use of mixed primary schedules for this age group.
- When available, clinicians will be required to complete the Moderna training modules prior to administering the Moderna vaccine to children aged 6-11 years.
- The vaccine is expected to be available for this age group from 24 February 2022.

## Vaccine side effects

- Short term, common adverse side effects may include:
  - pain, redness or swelling at the injection site
  - swollen or tender lymph nodes, particularly in the armpit
  - fever or chills
  - tiredness
  - headache
  - muscle pain
  - nausea or vomiting
  - joint pain.

- ATAGI advises that side effects reported following the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine have been mild to moderate and transient but may be more common than those following Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
- For example, following the second dose of vaccination with Moderna, 1 in 4 children had a fever compared to 6.5% of children in the Pfizer trial.

### More information

- ATAGI [statement on the use of Moderna in 6-11 year-olds](#)
- Australian Government resource: [About Moderna](#)
- Read more about [COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- Find out more about how to [get your COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- View the [Product Information of the Moderna vaccine](#)

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