

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Victorian update

Dr Kristina Flego

General Practitioner and Public Health Physician

Principal Public Health Medical Officer, COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Department of Health

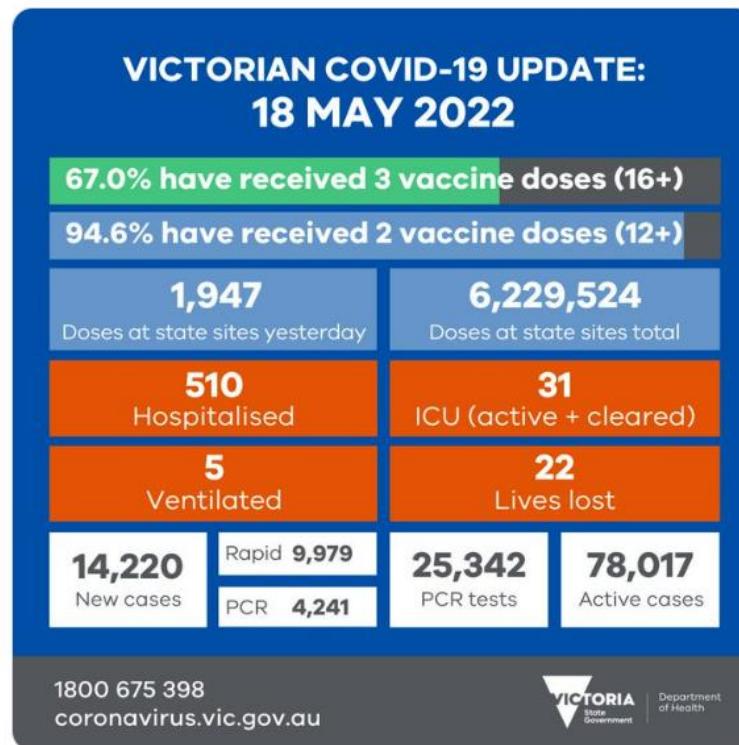
Wednesday 18 May 2022



Department
of Health

OFFICIAL

Daily COVID-19 vaccine data



OFFICIAL

Recent changes

1. ATAGI Advice on mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dosing schedule
2. ATAGI Advice on interval between infection and vaccination
3. Third dose vaccination for adults aged 70 years and older
4. ATAGI approves winter dose for selected cohorts
5. Change to the definition of COVID-19 vaccination status

mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dosing schedule

- ATAGI now recommends a primary dosing schedule of **2 doses at 8 weeks for both the paediatric formula and the adult/adolescent formulation.**
- The 2-month interval is intended to optimise protection for that person. **A longer gap may lead to a better immune response and result in longer protection** from reinfection in adults.
- For all age cohorts, the dosing interval can be shortened to a **minimum of 3 weeks for Pfizer and 4 weeks for Moderna**
- The longer interval may also reduce the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis, particularly for young males (age 12 to 39 years).

COVID-19 vaccination after infection

- It is now recommended that people **should wait 3 months after confirmed COVID-19 infection before they receive their next COVID-19 vaccination.**
- A persons' next scheduled COVID-19 vaccine should be given as soon as possible after this 3-month period.
- The 3-month waiting period is intended to optimise protection for that person. **A longer gap is likely to lead a better immune response and result in longer protection** from reinfection.
- This change in recommendation applies to all people who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., from 5 years and above), regardless of how many COVID-19 vaccine doses they have received.
- This **does not apply to other vaccines**, which can continue being administered as usual (e.g., influenza vaccinations).

COVID-19 vaccination after infection

1. Children who develop **PIMS-TS (Paediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome Temporally associated with SARS-CoV-2)** should delay vaccination for 3 months after their infection.
2. People who have received **monoclonal antibody for treatment of SARS-CoV-2 infection** should delay vaccination for 3 months following infection.
3. As with all vaccines, defer vaccination in anyone who is acutely unwell.

Third dose vaccination for older adults aged 70+

- 89.5% of adults over 70 years have received a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine as of the 14th of May 2022.
- People aged over 70 being are more likely to become sick if they contract COVID-19, therefore three doses of vaccine are very important.
- Two COVID-19 vaccine doses effectively prevent infection and serious illness, however, international evidence suggests that this protection decreases over time, particularly from 4-months onwards. A third dose helps prevent waning immunity (loss of protection) against COVID-19.
- **People aged 60 and over can now get their first, second, third and winter dose in their own home with a free vaccination at-home appointment.**

Winter doses

- **ATAGI has approved a ‘winter dose’ of COVID-19 vaccine for selected cohorts at greatest risk of severe illness from COVID-19**, and who have already received their primary and third doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- A winter dose can help prevent waning immunity against COVID-19.
- Those eligible for a winter dose include people aged 65 and over, residents of aged care and disability facilities, people aged 16 and over who are severely immunocompromised and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over.
- **Eligible people can have their winter dose 4-months after receiving their third dose**, or **3 months** after a confirmed COVID-19 infection if infection occurred since the persons third dose.
- The winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine **can be co-administered with their influenza vaccine** at the same appointment.

Change to the definition of COVID-19 vaccination status

- ATAGI has recommended the definition of fully vaccinated against COVID-19 **changes from 'fully vaccinated' to 'up to date'.**
- People aged 16 and over who have received all three vaccinations will now be considered up to date.
- People aged 16 and over who have **not received their third dose within six months of their previous dose will now be considered 'overdue.'**
- People aged five to 15 years will be considered up to date once a primary course of vaccination is complete.
- The change in status will not apply to international travellers arriving in Australia.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> three doses of COVID-19 vaccine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fully vaccinated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> third dose of COVID-19 vaccine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> up to date vaccination
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> up to date	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> booster dose
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> overdue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> booster
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one dose	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> booster shot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at least two doses	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> at least your second dose	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vaccination for children aged 5 to 11	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vaccination for children aged 5 and over	

Useful links

- Latest ATAGI updates:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance/latest-updates>

- PIMS-TS:

[Alert: Paediatric inflammatory multisystem syndrome \(PIMS-TS\) | Safer Care Victoria \(bettersafercare.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.safercare.vic.gov.au)

- In-home vaccination support:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-home>

- ‘Up-to-date’ status for COVID-19 vaccination:

[ATAGI statement on defining 'up-to-date' status for COVID-19 vaccination | Australian Government Department of Health](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance/latest-updates)

Thank you for participating tonight



Department
of Health

For the latest information www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus
Information is available in 50+ community languages at www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/translations

OFFICIAL