

## Why is a COVID-19 booster important in 2025?

COVID-19 is a serious disease, especially in older people.



COVID-19 continues to be a **leading contributor to deaths** in Australia. In 2024, it was responsible for close to 5,000 deaths nationally.\*



Older adults who have had a recent booster dose have almost **half the risk of dying from COVID-19** compared with those whose last booster was over a year ago.

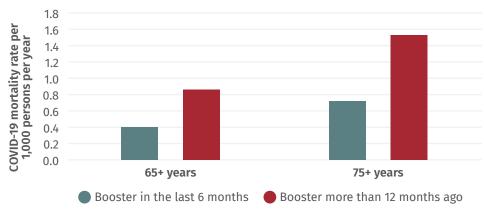


Adults aged 75 years and over will **benefit the most from a COVID-19 booster** because they have higher death rates from COVID-19.



It is safe to administer COVID-19 vaccines at the same time as other vaccines, including the influenza vaccine.

## Death rates from COVID-19 in Australia based on time since booster dose and according to age



People who received a booster more than 12 months ago are almost twice as likely to die from COVID-19 compared with people who received a booster in the last 6 months.

Source: Liu B, Scaria A, Stepien S et al. Effectiveness of COVID-19 boosters against COVID-19 mortality in Australians aged 65 years and older during August 2023 to February 2024. Medical Journal of Australia [In press]. doi.org/10.1101/2024.08.12.24311895

## **Booster recommendations**

- All adults aged 75 years and over are **recommended** a COVID-19 vaccine every 6 months.
- Adults aged 65–74 years and adults aged 18–64 years with severe immunocompromise are recommended a
  COVID-19 vaccine every 12 months and are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine every 6 months based on a risk-benefit
  assessment.
- All other adults without medical risk conditions are **eligible** for a COVID-19 vaccine every 12 months.

COVID-19 vaccinations are **free** for all recommended and eligible individuals, including those without a Medicare card.

To access NCIRS' COVID-19 resources, scan the QR code or visit ncirs.org.au/covid-19



<sup>\*</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics. Deaths due to COVID-19, influenza and RSV in Australia – 2022

<sup>–</sup> January 2025. February 2025. Available from <a href="https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/deaths-due-covid-19-influenza-and-rsv-australia-2022-january-2025">https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/deaths-due-covid-19-influenza-and-rsv-australia-2022-january-2025</a>