

Why is a COVID-19 booster important in 2025?

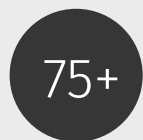
COVID-19 is a serious disease, especially in older people.



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.

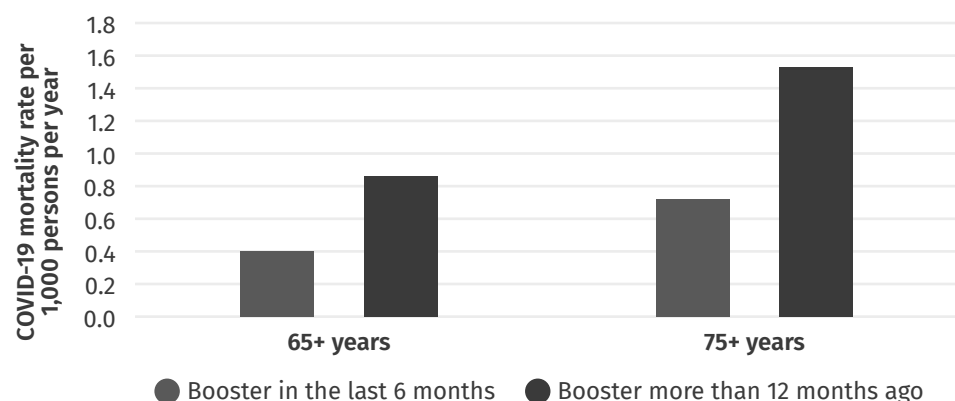


Adults aged 75 years and over will **benefit the most from a COVID-19 booster** because they have higher death rates from COVID-19.



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.

* Australian Bureau of Statistics. Deaths due to COVID-19, influenza and RSV in Australia – 2022 – January 2025. February 2025. Available from <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/deaths-due-covid-19-influenza-and-rsv-australia-2022-january-2025>

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

