

Summary of advice

COVID-19 vaccines that are currently registered and available for use in Australia are:

- Comirnaty (Pfizer) – registered for use in people aged 12 years or over
- COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca – registered for use in people aged 18 years or over.

ATAGI recommends to use the same COVID-19 vaccine for the two doses of the primary vaccination course, unless there are specific medical contraindications or precautions, or the same vaccine brand is not available in Australia.

This advice explains:

- the medical contraindications and serious vaccine-attributable adverse events after dose 1 of a COVID-19 vaccine that warrant using an alternative vaccine brand for dose 2
- the medical conditions that mean that Comirnaty is recommended over COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
- the recommendations for completing the primary vaccination course for people who have received dose 1 with a vaccine that is not available in Australia.

Introduction

ATAGI recommends to use the same COVID-19 vaccine for the two doses of the primary course of vaccination, unless there are specific medical contraindications or precautions. This recommendation is based on current evidence for the vaccines available in Australia. Mixed vaccine schedules with different COVID-19 vaccines, at this stage of the pandemic, should be used only in special circumstances.

This recommendation is supported by a large amount of data on efficacy, effectiveness and safety from clinical trials and observational studies that used the same brand for dose 1 and 2 in millions of people. See the appendix of this document for studies using dose 1 COVID-19 AstraZeneca and dose 2 Comirnaty.

These recommendations currently apply to people aged ≥ 18 years. This is because there is only one vaccine (Comirnaty, Pfizer) that is registered for use in people aged < 18 years in Australia. Comirnaty is registered for use in people aged 12 years or over.

Advice for people who have had a first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and have since fallen pregnant will be available in the [Shared decision making guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy](#).