

Script for general practices: Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and children aged 12 to 15

This document has been prepared for general practices to assist them in responding to patients with questions about the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and children aged 12 to 15 years.

What is the ATAGI advice on COVID-19 vaccinations for children aged 12 to 15?

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for use in people aged 12 to 15 years.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has provided advice on eligibility criteria for vaccination with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children aged 12 to 15.

The Australian Government has accepted this advice, and from 9 August onwards, specific groups of adolescents aged 12 to 15 years who have an increased risk of severe COVID-19 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. These are:

- children aged 12-15 with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19, including:
 - asthma
 - diabetes,
 - obesity
 - cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies
 - neuro developmental disorders
 - epilepsy
 - immunocompromised, and
 - trisomy 21.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12-15
- all children aged 12 to 15 in remote communities, as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs.

When can eligible children start getting vaccinated?

- Children aged 12 to 15 with underlying medical conditions, who are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander or living in remote locations will be prioritised for Pfizer vaccines from 9 August 2021.

- *[please note: you can start taking booking (and administering if you have sufficient stock) from now]*

What if my child is not currently eligible?

ATAGI will make further recommendations in the coming months about routine vaccination of children aged 12 to 15 not in these priority populations.

Where can eligible children get their vaccination?

Parents and guardians can book a Pfizer vaccination for their child/children at:

- state and territory-operated Pfizer clinics
- Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics offering Pfizer
- participating general practices offering Pfizer
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services offering Pfizer

You can make a booking by completing the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker: health.gov.au/eligibility-checker from 9 August

If you are located in a remote community, the vaccine will be available as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs that provide vaccines for all ages (≥ 12 years).

More information is available on the Department of Health website: www.health.gov.au