

COVID-19 vaccine recommendations 1 April 2023

Age Band		Primary Course	First Booster	Additional Booster Dose
< 5 years	Healthy			
	At risk ¹	Consider		
5 - 11 years	Healthy	Consider		
	At risk ²	Consider		
12 - 15 years	Healthy			
	At risk ³		Severely immunocompromised only*	
16 - 17 years	Healthy		Consider	
	At risk ⁴			Consider
18 - 29 years	Healthy			
	At risk ⁴			Consider
30 - 49 years	Healthy			Consider
	At risk ⁴			Recommended
50 - 64 years	Healthy			Consider
	Māori & Pacific peoples			Consider
	At risk ⁴			Recommended
≥ 65 years	All			Recommended
Pregnant people ≥ 30 years	Healthy			Consider
Pregnant people ≥ 30 years	At risk ⁴			Recommended
Pregnant people ≥ 16 to 29 years	Healthy			
Pregnant people ≥ 16 to 29 years*	At risk ⁵			Consider for pregnant people with comorbidities*⁵

*With an authorised prescriber prescription and written consent

Recommended

Not eligible ie, not available in the programme but can be administered with prescription

Eligible ie, individual can **Consider**

Consider an additional dose for pregnant people with comorbidities, and if unsure, consult their GP, Midwife, or Obstetrician for advice on the risks and benefits.

After COVID infection, dose earlier than recommended 6 months dose interval

- An additional booster dose **between three to 6 months** requires an informed decision-making discussion, and written consent is strongly recommended
- An additional booster dose **less than three months** requires an informed decision-making discussion, authorised prescriber prescription and written consent.

¹ Severely immunocompromised, **or** complex and/or multiple health conditions increasing risk of severe disease from COVID-19, following the Starship Child Health table of underlying comorbidities. Link here.

<https://starship.org.nz/guidelines/covid-19-disease-in-children/>

² Children with high-risk pre-existing medical conditions, Māori and Pacific children should be prioritised

³ People with severe immunocompromise. Link to Immunisation Handbook advice here.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/immunisation-handbook-2020/5-coronavirus-disease-covid-19#table23-3>

⁴ At-risk groups include those at high risk of severe COVID-19 because of a health condition (see Appendix 1) **or** residents of an aged- or disability facility. For **16- to 29-year-olds**, at-risk groups are eligible rather than recommended to receive an additional dose. However, those in this age group with more severe conditions or multiple comorbidities should particularly **consider** an additional dose.

⁵ Pregnant people **16 years to 29 years** of age, with comorbidities should consider an additional dose which requires a prescription and written consent before administration. If unsure, they should consult their GP, Midwife, or Obstetrician for advice about the risks and benefits in their specific case, Novavax vaccine is not recommend for pregnant people due to lack of data and requires a prescription and written consent before administration.

APPENDIX ONE

Clinical criteria in support of eligibility for additional doses

People in these groups are likely to have an ongoing increased risk of severe COVID-19 even after primary vaccination. These examples are not exhaustive, and providers may include individuals with conditions similar to those listed below, based on clinical judgment.

Category	Examples
Immunocompromising conditions	People with HIV
Cancer	Non-haematological cancer including those diagnosed within the past 5 years or on chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, or targeted anti-cancer therapy (active treatment or recently completed) or with advanced disease regardless of treatment. Survivors of childhood cancer.
Chronic inflammatory conditions requiring medical treatment with disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or immune-suppressive or immunomodulatory therapies.	Systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and similar who are being treated.
Chronic lung disease	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung disease and severe asthma (defined as requiring frequent hospital visits or the use of multiple medications).
Chronic liver disease	Cirrhosis, autoimmune hepatitis, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, alcoholic liver disease.
Severe chronic kidney disease (stage 4 or 5)	
Chronic neurological disease	Stroke, neurodegenerative disease (e.g., dementia, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's disease), myasthenia gravis, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, myopathies, paralytic syndromes, epilepsy.
Diabetes mellitus requiring medication	
Chronic cardiac disease	Ischaemic heart disease, valvular heart disease, congestive cardiac failure, cardiomyopathies, poorly controlled hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, complex congenital heart disease.
People with disability with significant or complex health needs or multiple comorbidities which increase the risk of poor outcomes from COVID-19	Particularly those with trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome) or complex multi-system disorders.