

# Why is COVID-19 vaccination important for older adults?

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



COVID-19 continues to be a **leading contributor to respiratory infection-related deaths** in Australia. In 2025, it was responsible for over 2,000 deaths nationally.\*



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

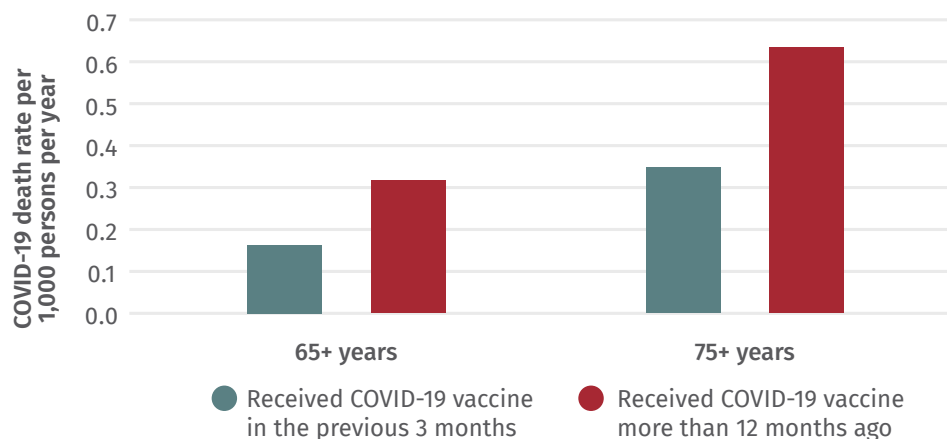


Adults aged 75 years and over will **benefit the most from a COVID-19 vaccine** because they have higher death rates from COVID-19.



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 COVID-19 vaccination and according to age



*People who received a COVID-19 vaccine more than 12 months ago are almost twice as likely to die from COVID-19 compared with people who received a COVID-19 vaccine in the previous 3 months.*

Source: Liu B, Stepien S, Macartney K. Changing impact of COVID-19 vaccination on COVID-19 mortality in the SARS-CoV-2 omicron variant period, 2022-2025. *medRxiv* 2025;11.20.25340696. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2025.11.20.25340696>

## COVID-19 vaccine 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 acute respiratory infections in Australia. February 2026. Available from: <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/causes-death/deaths-due-acute-respiratory-infections-australia/latest-release>

To access NCIRS' COVID-19 resources, scan the QR code or visit [ncirs.org.au/covid-19](https://ncirs.org.au/covid-19)

