

ATAGI recommendation for using high-dose influenza vaccine versus standard-dose influenza vaccine in adults aged ≥ 65 years

High-dose influenza vaccine is recommended in preference to standard-dose influenza vaccine in adults aged ≥ 65 years.

Justification

- High-dose influenza vaccine probably provides greater protection against a range of influenza disease–related outcomes compared with standard-dose influenza vaccines.
- The panel considers that especially on critical outcomes such as ‘influenza/pneumonia/ respiratory-related hospitalisations’, use of high-dose influenza vaccine likely results in a small reduction in these outcomes compared with standard-dose influenza vaccine. In the context of the high burden of influenza disease affecting older adults, even a small reduction in these outcomes can mean a substantial reduction in the number of individuals affected if there is high vaccination coverage.
- High-dose influenza vaccine results in a small increase in the frequency of local adverse events and systemic adverse events compared with standard-dose influenza vaccine. There is no increase in the frequency of severe or serious adverse events.
- The body of evidence suggests that in comparison to standard-dose influenza vaccine, the likely greater effectiveness of high-dose influenza vaccine outweighs the slightly higher frequency of non-serious adverse events following immunisation.

Note: NCIRS is conducting GRADE in support of ATAGI and making results available on the NCIRS website. Please read this document as a supplement to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook Influenza disease chapter](#) and the [ATAGI Annual Influenza Statement](#).