



COVID-19 VACCINATION

ATAGI Advice for Additional groups recommended for a winter booster dose as of 24 May 2022

People aged 16-64 years who have complex, chronic or severe conditions that are considered to increase their risk of severe illness from COVID-19 (Refer to Table).

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	
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 risk of poor outcome from COVID-19	Particularly those with trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome) or complex multi-system disorders.
Severe obesity with BMI ≥ 40 kg/m ²	
Severe underweight with BMI < 16.5 kg/m ²	

Younger people (aged 16 to under 40 years) with conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19 may consider discussing the potential risks and benefits of a second booster dose with their treating doctor. There is a very rare risk of myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA vaccines which is highest in this age group, particularly in males.⁴ It is anticipated that this cohort may have an increased risk of myocarditis or pericarditis following the second booster, compared with other population groups (see [ATAGI advice on Myocarditis and Pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccines](#)).