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Australia prefers Pfizer vaccine over AstraZeneca for age 59 and under

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The experts at ATAGI have updated their advice to recommend the Pfizer vaccine be preferred for adults aged 59 and under



The Australian Government has received updated advice from the expert vaccine body, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

The experts at ATAGI have updated their advice to recommend the Pfizer vaccine be preferred for adults aged 59 and under.

The ATAGI advice remains clear that the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is highly effective in preventing severe disease caused by COVID-19.

Up until today, ATAGI's advice had been the Pfizer vaccine be preferred for adults aged 49 and under based on evidence related to the incidence of the very rare blood-clotting thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) in this age cohort.

This updated advice based on new evidence demonstrating a higher risk for the very rare TTS condition in the 50-59 year-old age group.

AstraZeneca remains recommended for those aged 60 and over based on the much higher risk of illness and death from COVID-19 in this age group, and the lower risk of this condition.

ATAGI also strongly recommends people of all ages who have had the first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine without serious adverse effects have their second dose of AstraZeneca.

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout will continue, but will be adjusted as we expand the number of access points for the Pfizer vaccine.