



# Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

## Provider Bulletin

26 June 2023

*Bulletins provide you with regular updates and guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccine Program.*

### Key Messages

#### VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE (VOC) UPDATE

##### Changes from 1 July 2023

From Saturday 1 July 2023, VOC operating hours will move to normal business hours arrangements.

The new operating hours will be 9:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

New VOC Operating Hours from Saturday 1 July 2023		
Monday - Thursday	9:00am - 5:00pm AEST	7:00am - 3:00pm AWST
Friday	9:00am - 5:00pm AEST	7:00am - 3:00pm AWST
Saturday	CLOSED	CLOSED

If you need to report a cold chain breach (CCB) outside of operating hours, use the CCB reporting form found on the 'Get Help' page of your CVAS account or [here](#). Please email the CCB reporting form to [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au) and it will be actioned as a priority the next business day.

You can still contact VOC via our mailbox:

[COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au) 24 hours a day and on 1800 318 208 during the above operating hours.

## MEDICARE SUPPORT FOR COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

### Changes from 1 July 2023

From 1 February 2023, the vaccine suitability assessment MBS items were streamlined and simplified to reflect integration of these services into routine care. These fees will increase on **1 July 2023** in-line with MBS indexation.

COVID-19 funding description			MBS Item	Payment
MBS - business hours - suitability assessment items	GP	MMM1	93644	<b>\$36.35</b>
		MMM2-7	93645	<b>\$39.90</b>
	OMP	MMM1	93646	<b>\$29.20</b>
		MMM2-7	93647	<b>\$36.05</b>
MBS– after hours – suitability assessment items	GP	MMM1	93653	<b>\$49.30</b>
		MMM2-7	93654	<b>\$52.75</b>
	OMP	MMM1	93655	<b>\$39.70</b>
		MMM2-7	93656	<b>\$46.40</b>
MBS - Remote supervision items	GP/OMP	MMM1	93660	<b>\$22.10</b>
		MMM2-7	93661	<b>\$25.25</b>
Flag fall*	GP/OMP	MMM1-7	90005	<b>\$122.40</b>
MBS – in-depth vaccine assessment item **	GP	MMM1-7	10660	<b>\$41.15</b>
	OMP	MMM1-7	10661	<b>\$32.95</b>

## VACCINE UPDATES

### Pfizer 12 years+ (Purple) Expiry and Offboarding

Please be advised that the last of the Pfizer 12 years+(purple) stock has now been delivered. All Pfizer 12 years+(purple) vaccine doses will expire on **30 June 2023**.

**Please check your fridges on 1 July (the day after expiry) to report any wastage in CVAS.** The vaccines should then be disposed of as per existing state and territory guidelines for the disposal of clinical waste and schedule 4 medication. If there is a wastage event of 10 or more vials a Major Wastage Report will need to be completed in CVAS as soon as possible. If there are less than 10 vials, the reporting should be completed in the minor wastage section in the weekly Vaccine Stock Management Report **due no later than 9pm Friday that week.**

Once a site's stock on hand in CVAS shows zero for Pfizer 12 years+(purple) and all reporting has been completed in CVAS for this vaccine product, it will be deactivated on your behalf, unless you have already requested deactivation.

Please note that Pfizer BA. 4-5 (grey) and Moderna BA. 4-5 pre-filled syringes (PFS) vaccines continue to be available if you need access to a primary course vaccine for people 12 years and over.

## AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER (AIR)

### Vaccine Administrator Obligations

It is mandatory under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015*, for vaccination providers to report all vaccinations administered in Australia to the AIR. Vaccination providers should use the latest version of their Practice Management Software to make sure they meet reporting requirements.

**Every COVID-19 vaccine should be reported to the AIR within 24 hours.**

**If you are providing vaccinations to residents of aged care or disability homes, it is your responsibility as the vaccinator to upload the information to the AIR.**

To ensure accurate and complete reporting of vaccination information to the AIR, providers must provide the following information:

- provider information: provider number, name and contact details
- personal information of the individual vaccinated: Medicare number (if applicable) and the individual patients reference number, name, contact details, date of birth and gender
- vaccine information: brand name, dose number, batch number and date of administration








Reporting timely, high quality and accurate vaccination information ensures that the AIR maintains a complete and reliable dataset to enable the monitoring of immunisation coverage and administration. It also ensures that individuals have a complete record of their vaccinations that can be provided as evidence for education, employment, and/or travel purposes.

You may use any of the following digital services to report to the AIR:

- third party software – this is the preferred option, and several commercial products are already integrated with the AIR.
- the AIR site via Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) – this is a free secure way for providers to interact electronically with Services Australia, including to submit immunisation encounters to AIR.

**Please note:** It is important that vaccination providers enter the **correct vaccine and batch number** when reporting information to the AIR. Healthcare providers **should check each patient's immunisation history and Medicare reference numbers before administering any COVID-19 vaccine.**

## STORING OPENED MULTI-DOSE VIALS AND VACCINE DOSES

COVID-19 vaccine multi-dose vials	TGA approved storage for opened vials*	ATAGI recommended storage for opened vials*	ATAGI recommended storage for pre-drawn doses
 <b>Pfizer 6 months - 4 years (Maroon)</b>	<b>12 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>1 hour</b> (8°C to 30°C) OR <b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 8°C)
 <b>Pfizer 5-11 years (Orange)</b>	<b>12 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>1 hour</b> (8°C to 30°C) OR <b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 8°C)
 <b>Pfizer 12 years+ (Purple)</b>	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>1 hour</b> (8°C to 30°C) OR <b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 8°C)
 <b>Novavax</b>	<b>12 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	Not recommended**
 <b>Pfizer Bivalent (BA.4-5) 12 years+ (Grey)</b>	<b>12 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>1 hour</b> (8°C to 30°C) OR <b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 8°C)
 <b>Pfizer Bivalent (BA.1) 18 years+ (Grey)</b>	<b>12 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 30°C)	<b>1 hour</b> (8°C to 30°C) OR <b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 8°C)
 <b>Moderna Bivalent (BA.1) 18 years+ (Blue/Green)</b>	<b>19 hours</b> (2°C to 25°C)	<b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 25°C)	<b>1 hour</b> (8°C to 25°C) OR <b>6 hours</b> (2°C to 8°C)

\* Where a variation exists, the ATAGI recommendation should be considered best practice.

\*\* Data on the stability of pre-drawn doses in syringes is not available for Novavax, therefore storing pre-drawn doses of this vaccine in syringes is not preferred. If pre-drawn doses of Novavax are used, ATAGI recommends pre-drawn doses in syringes should be used within 1 hour if kept at room temperature, and within 6 hours if kept at 2°C to 8°C. This is to minimise the risk of infection.

For more information see: <https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/covid-19-vaccines/advice-for-providers/clinical-guidance/transporting-storing-and-handling>.

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