



Australian Government



# Phase 1B General Practice Vaccine Rollout

## Update – 11 June 2021

### Targeted Expression of Interest (EOI) for general practices to deliver the AstraZeneca vaccine

The Australian Government opened a targeted Expression of Interest process from 27 March 2021 to 31 March 2021, to identify up to 900 additional general practices in and around areas with limited access to the AstraZeneca vaccine. Over 897 practices applied and the Department is currently finalising the process with all eligible practices provided with on boarding packs and in the process of registering and ordering. These practices will begin administering vaccines from Week 18 of the roll out from 21 June.

The media release and public EOI material can be found [here](#).

### Expression of Interest (EOI) for general practices to administer Pfizer

On 4 June 2021, **participating general practices in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, as approved as part of the EOI undertaken from January to March 2021**, were invited to indicate their interest in administering the Pfizer vaccine, in addition to their current administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

It is anticipated that all participating general practices who meet the Pfizer site requirements will be provided with the opportunity to administer the Pfizer vaccine by October 2021. A limited number of these practices may be invited to commence from July in areas of need, based on vaccine supply.

Your assistance in ensuring general practices understand the scope of this EOI would be greatly appreciated.

### Reminding patients of upcoming second dose appointments

We would appreciate your support in ensuring that practices remind patients about their upcoming second dose appointment.

The [COVID-19 vaccine provider communication kit](#) on the Department of Health website has suggested appointment reminder content. A [second dose flyer](#) for patients receiving their COVID-19 vaccine dose outlining when they are due for their second appointment is also available for distribution.

## Timing of administration of other vaccines, including influenza vaccine

There has been a change in the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advice, stating that the preferred **minimum interval** between receipt of a COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine, including the influenza vaccine, is **7 days**.

A shorter interval (i.e. less than 7 days, including co-administration) is acceptable in the following settings:

- increased risk of COVID-19 or another vaccine-preventable disease (e.g. COVID-19 outbreak, influenza outbreak, tetanus-prone wound); or
- logistical issues e.g. difficulty scheduling visits to maintain the 7 day interval.

This advice has been updated on the [Clinical considerations page](#), and all other relevant webpages.

We would appreciate if you could please distribute this to your network.

## Australian Immunisation Register

We have received feedback that GPs are unsure of whether to upload COVID-19 vaccinations into the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) that they did not administer.

If an individual has evidence of vaccinations which have not been reported to the AIR, vaccination providers are **encouraged** (but not required) to report this information. This ensures their patients have a complete AIR record. The AIR has functionality for vaccination providers to report vaccines that were administered by another provider and also to identify information previously reported to prevent duplicate information from displaying on an individual's Immunisation History Statement.

We appreciate your help in promoting this advice.

## COVID-19 Easy Read Resources

We would appreciate your assistance in encouraging general practices to utilise the patient targeted resources that are available in [Easy Read](#) format and in [other languages](#).

These resources cover all aspects of the vaccination process including preparing for COVID-19 vaccination and after COVID-19 vaccination, and are available to download and print from the Department of Health website.

## TGA – Database of Adverse Event Notifications

For your information, the first adverse event reports for the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine are now available on the Therapeutic Goods Administration's public [Database of Adverse Event Notifications \(DAEN\)](#).

## Updated links

Your assistance in ensuring all GPs know and understand the latest advice and direct any concerns to the available resources is much appreciated.

The Department has now updated the [clinical considerations](#) webpage to reflect recently published ATAGI advice on the following:

- Heparin treatment and COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
- Administration of COVID-19 vaccine following a thromboembolic event
- People with a past history of CVST or HIT
- People who develop CVST or HIT following dose 1 COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
- Timing of COVID-19 vaccination with tuberculin skin test
- Administering COVID-19 vaccines before or after surgery

Other links of the Department's website have been updated:

- [After your AstraZeneca vaccination](#)
- [Patient Information on thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome](#)
- [ATAGI Provider guide to COVID-19 vaccination of people with immunocompromised](#)
- [Clinical guidance on use of COVID-19 vaccine in Australia in 2021](#)
- [Consent form](#) (including print friendly version)
- [Preparing for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Information for Immunisation Providers on Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome \(TTS\) following COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [Consent – Information for providers: COVID-19 vaccination consent and FAQs](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine](#)