



Australian Government



COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Primary Care Update

Update – 03 August 2021

Provider Bulletin

Please find attached the Provider Bulletin that includes:

- Updated information on ATAGI advice regarding vaccinations of groups aged 12-15 and COVID-19 vaccines in the setting of the Delta variant of concern;
- Guidance on the risks of Myocarditis and Pericarditis and the Pfizer vaccine;
- Updated AstraZeneca product information including Capillary Leakage Syndrome as contraindication;
- Links to updated consent forms, patient information sheets, clinical guidance and decision guides.
- Updated TGA advertising permissions;
- Advice on optimal dosage interval for COVID-19 vaccines; and
- Guidance on management of excess doses.

New primary care provider practice incentive payments to support in-reach residential aged care and disability support COVID-19 vaccination

To ensure residential aged care workers can access a COVID-19 vaccine, the Australian Government is providing primary care vaccination providers (including general practices, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics (CVCs) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS)), with an incentive payment to deliver in-reach vaccination clinics to residential aged care and disability support workers at their place of work.

The payment will be available until 31 October 2021 and can be backdated to 29 April 2021 where sufficient evidence of in-reach vaccination clinics already administered can be provided. The incentive payment of an additional \$20 per COVID-19 vaccine dose administered will be made available to primary care vaccination providers when a minimum of 50 COVID-19 vaccination doses are provided to residential aged care and disability support workers as part of in-reach vaccination clinics at a residential care facility.

The guidance provided to practices is attached for your information.

New NCIRS Resource

For your reference and to promote to your networks, there is now a [resource on the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance website](#) that provides a summary of new and updated COVID-19 vaccine information, as well as links to further detailed information on the Department of Health website.

This is a useful reference for vaccine providers and non-participating primary care providers to find relevant and regularly updated COVID-19 vaccine information quickly.

Greater Sydney access to additional AstraZeneca

We appreciate your support in reminding your networks that vaccination sites in Greater Sydney are now able to access additional AstraZeneca deliveries to support demand. Orders/requests can be made directly to the VOC and we aim to deliver to greater Sydney sites within five business days.

All sites within Greater Sydney have been contacted to inform them that they can send through dedicated requests.

Please note – additional orders for Pfizer are not available at this time.

Additional Pfizer sites

There are currently over 1,500 practices currently administering Pfizer across the country.

We have invited 280 new general practices to commence administering Pfizer in August. The August expansion has a high proportion of non-metro sites to continue to expand the Pfizer footprint and provide coverage to areas with low access.

Pfizer in General Practice

Many general practices have queried why they have not yet been invited to commence administering Pfizer and when they will be able to begin. All interested general practices will have the opportunity to receive Pfizer in coming weeks and months. We would appreciate your support to reiterate this. Talking points have been provided below to assist with these conversations.

Talking points

- The Australian Government has fast-tracked the transition of general practices to administering Pfizer.
- Across the country, more than 1,500 general practices received the Pfizer vaccine in July 2021.
- Due to supply constraints, it was not possible for the Commonwealth to allocate Pfizer doses to all general practices during July.

- Practices in areas with limited access such as regional, rural and remote areas, and COVID-19 hotspots, have been prioritised in the first instance to maximise the impact of the rollout across Australia and ensure protection for eligible individuals living in areas where there is an increased risk of contracting COVID-19.
- The selection of practices is in no way a reflection on the quality or ability of individual general practices.
- As soon as more vaccine becomes available, the Government will progressively transition general practices to Pfizer.
- It is anticipated that all interested participating general practices who meet the site requirements will be offered a Pfizer allocation in coming weeks/months as supply increases.

Notifications commencing for people registered for notifications with the Eligibility Checker

Please be advised the Department has commenced sending notifications to people who have registered their interest to be notified via the Eligibility Checker. The notifications will be staggered as below, and wording will be targeted to the specific groups.

Some people have elected to receive SMS and some email. The notifications will contain a link to the eligibility checker, as well as advice relating to the support options for their cohort.

Notifications:

- **Monday 2 August:** Group 3: People who identified they work in residential aged care facility (approximately 12,000 registered)
- **Wednesday 4 August:** Groups 1 and 2 (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 18-49 years, approximately 3290) and (phase 1a and b registered, approximately 21,130)
- **Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 August:** Stagger notifications over 2 days - Group 4 (other people 40-49 years, approximately 156,050)