



# Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

## Provider Bulletin

2 March 2022

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

### Key Messages

#### ATAGI UPDATE

#### Updated ATAGI recommendations on the use of a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have updated their [recommendations](#) on the use of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

What's changed:

- Nuvaxovid (Novavax) can be used as a booster in an individual aged 18 years and above if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that individual.
- Use of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose is now only recommended when there are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines. AstraZeneca is no longer recommended for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, although it can still be used for this purpose if these individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose.
- Either of the available mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) is preferred for this booster dose in those aged 18 years and above. For those aged 16 – 17 years, only Pfizer vaccine should be used. These brands can be used for the booster dose regardless of which vaccine brand was used for the primary course.
- Updated evidence of vaccine effectiveness of booster doses against the Omicron variant has been included.

## VACCINE DELIVERIES IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS

The VOC is working with delivery partners to manage vaccine and consumable deliveries.

Sites will be contacted where their deliveries are impacted. Redelivery of vaccines and consumables will be organised when it is safe to do so, and it is suitable for sites.

The department is working with QLD Health to utilise available stock in nearby sites. QLD Health will be contacting and liaising with sites to discuss arrangements.

It is expected that number of effected orders will grow. **Further information will be provided as the situation changes.**

## VCF AND VCFC UPDATE

### Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF) Update

VCF Connect enables clinics to self-manage information published about their clinic on the Vaccine Clinic Finder.

As of 1 March, over 9400 sites have been on-boarded to VCF Connect and 1182 sites have been claimed using VCF Connect. Questions can be directed to support services on 1800 316 375 or [CV19.Products@health.gov.au](mailto:CV19.Products@health.gov.au). Further information is available in the **attached** FAQs.

### VCF Moderna Update

From Monday 7 March, the Vaccine Clinic Finder will display two vaccine types for sites administering Moderna nationally. These are Moderna (for people aged 6-11) and Moderna (for people aged 12+).

If you do not wish to administer to the 6-11 age group, please let us know and we will have this service removed.

**To have a service removed, please contact** [pcdvcf@health.gov.au](mailto:pcdvcf@health.gov.au).

If you have further questions about VCF Connect, please contact [CV19.Products@health.gov.au](mailto:CV19.Products@health.gov.au) or 1800 316 375.

## AIR MODERNA UPDATE

### Reporting a Moderna (6 to 11 years) COVID-19 Vaccination to the AIR

Recent Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) enhancements enable vaccination providers to report any administered paediatric Moderna Spikevax vaccination to children aged 6 to 11 years.

When reporting the administration of a paediatric Moderna Spikevax vaccination to children aged 6 to 11 years to the AIR, vaccination providers should use the same vaccine code **MODERN**, as they would for reporting the administration of a Moderna Spikevax to individuals aged 12 and older.

As providers are aware, it is mandatory under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015*, for vaccination providers to report all COVID 19 vaccinations administered on or after 20 February 2021.

Vaccination providers should use the latest version of their clinical software to make sure they meet reporting requirements. The Department of Health will continue to work with Services Australia to help software developers and vaccination providers meet their reporting obligations.

## REMINDERS

### Excess stock on hand – order approval

To ensure equitable distribution and to minimise vaccine wastage, if you are placing an order in CVAS when you have a large amount of vaccine stock on hand, your order will require approval from the Taskforce. Sites will be requested to provide a reason why they require large amounts of stock to support the order request.

The primary contact identified in CVAS for your site will receive an email from CVAS advising if your order has been approved or rejected.

You may also receive a warning message when you have a large amount of stock on hand at your site, as a reminder to only order what you need. You may continue to place an order in these circumstances but please consider how you will manage your site's stock to minimise wastage.

### Consumables

If you do not require consumables, you are able to order vaccine only in CVAS.

When entering how many doses you require in an order for 'Vaccine and Paired Consumables' you will see an option to select a 'Vaccine Only' checkbox. Selecting this checkbox will allow you to place your order for vaccine without paired consumables.

Alternatively, if you do not select the 'Vaccine Only' checkbox, you are able to order fewer than the default maximum number of consumables associated with that vaccine order.

You can reduce the number of packs of each paired consumable item by clicking on the pencil icon when hovering over the consumables item. Type in a smaller quantity of packs needed, or zero (0) if you do not require any, and then hit **Save**.

Please only order the vaccines and consumables you need.

### Sharps Container Stock

Stocks of the following Sharps Containers have now been run down and are not being considered for procurement in the short term;

- **303208:** Sharps Containers: BD Sharps Collector One-piece 8L
- **303209:** Sharps Containers: BD Sharps Collector One-piece 17L

The sharps containers remaining available for ordering are the;

- **303205:** BD Sharps Collector One-piece 1.4L
- **303207:** BD Sharps Collector One-piece 3L

The National COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce has a large stock of these remaining containers available and will be able to supply these until a further assessment has been done on the procurement of Sharps containers for future supply.

## RESOURCES

### Vaccine Exemption Handout

Please see **attached** a vaccine exemption handout. The purpose of the handout is to address the lack of clarity around appropriate medical exemptions from vaccination. The handout can be used as a guide for GPs to share with patients to explain who is able to receive a vaccine exemption and under what circumstances

## LIVING WITH COVID - PPE

### PPE Bundles

Under the Australian Government Living with COVID Primary Care package, PPE bundles are being made available for free under emergency conditions to general practitioners (GPs), Aboriginal and Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), GP-led Respiratory Clinics (GPRCs) and immunising pharmacists.

The Department of Health has commenced a more streamlined approach to PPE and pulse oximeter ordering, distribution and delivery. Deliveries from the National Medical Stockpile will now be delivered directly to GPs and pharmacists - removing the requirement for PHNs to be an intermediary distributor. Deliveries to rural and remote areas are prioritised.

Local PHNs will remain the contact point for GPs, ACCHS, GPRCs and immunising pharmacists to order PPE. An improved ordering system, with a tracking number, will be part of the streamlined approach. The new system also supports monitoring and compliance checks to ensure PPE is only provided for free from the NMS to those who are eligible.

PHNs will communicate locally with GPs, ACCHS, GPRCs and immunising pharmacies in their respective regions. In addition, guidance material is available on the Department's [website](#), including eligibility criteria and factsheets for [GPs, ACCHS and GPRCs](#) and [pharmacists](#).

There will be a transition phase over the next four weeks while PHNs run down PPE stock levels prior to submitting orders for PPE under the new arrangements.

For more information, please contact your PHN.

## MBS ITEM UPDATE

### Updated MBS Item 93715 (COVID-19 Management Support Service)

From 18 January 2022, MBS Item (93715) to support management of patients with confirmed COVID-19 has included patients diagnosed using a COVID-19 rapid antigen self-test. Item 93715 cannot be provided in conjunction with telehealth services and is only for face-to-face care.

Doctors should be aware that for patients that have received a positive result via a COVID-19 rapid antigen self-test, the medical practitioner is required to either assist in or confirm the reporting of the positive test result through the relevant state or territory reporting system. The medical practitioner is required to make a record in the patient's notes confirming that the result has been reported.

Information about MBS Item 93715 is available on MBS Online:

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-COVID-Support>