

## COVID-19 VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### 1. My pharmacy did not submit an EOI. Can I still participate in future roll-outs?

If your pharmacy had a valid s90 number during this EOI opening period and you wish to participate, you must have submitted an EOI before the closing date of 19 February 2021.

### 2. My pharmacy has had, or will have a change of ownership after the EOI process was finalised. Will my response and subsequent approval continue to be valid after this change?

Yes, where there has been a full or partial change of ownership a declaration confirming that all the responses to the EOI questions are unchanged will be required when you notify PPA of the change. This declaration is under development.

### 3. I no longer wish to participate in the vaccination program, can I retract my EOI form?

Yes, please contact the PPA Support Centre at [support@ppaonline.com.au](mailto:support@ppaonline.com.au) to progress this.

### 4. What does the role of a "Contact Person" entail?

The Contact Person you designated in your EOI response is the person who will be contacted regarding the outcome of your application. The contact person will also be the key contact at your pharmacy for all logistical roll-out activities.

### 5. Can one staff member provide for more than one role in the EOI? (for example, do I need to have a separate first aid officer or can a nurse/pharmacist fill this role).

Yes, the pharmacy should be able to provide all appropriately trained staff identified within 2.1 of the site requirements (Attachment A of the EOI Package), they do not need to be individual staff members.

### 6. How will community pharmacies be advised of their suitability?

Your pharmacy's Main Authorised Person (MAP) or other nominated contact person were contacted regarding the outcome of the EOI via email on Friday 30 April 2021.

It is important to note that a determination of 'suitable' does not necessarily mean your pharmacy will be immediately selected to participate.

### 7. Are there any opportunities for expenses to be reimbursed by the Government (for example extra staff brought on for the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine)?

No additional financial support is available to participate in this rollout, other than the vaccination service fees already listed in the EOI.

## COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

### 8. How does the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out interact with the Influenza vaccine? Can other vaccines be given concurrently?

On 20 January 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) published advice on Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccines. Advice includes:

- Recommending that healthcare professionals do not routinely schedule and administer the influenza and COVID-19 vaccine on the same day.
- The preferred minimum timeframe between these vaccines is 14 days

For further information, please refer to this ATAGI advice:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-atagi-advice-on-influenza-and-covid-19-vaccines>

### 9. Who will be allowed to administer the vaccine?

Health professionals are authorised to deliver the vaccine in accordance with jurisdictional legislation and requirements. In addition, all eligible vaccinators must also have completed the COVID-19 vaccine specific training. Further information on training requirements is outlined below.

### 10. What is the timeframe for the second dose?

The TGA has approved the timeframe for the second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine to be administered from 4 to 12 weeks after the first dose. The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the interval between first and second dose is 12 weeks. More information on dosing timeframes can be found in the Department of Health's COVID-19 training modules or on the TGA website.

### 11. Will patients be required to be tested COVID negative prior to undergoing a vaccination for obvious reasons?

No, routine testing of asymptomatic people for COVID-19 will not be recommended prior to vaccination.

### 12. Can services be provided to non-Medicare eligible patients (visa holders etc)?

Non-Medicare eligible patients should be referred to attend a State-based vaccine delivery site or a General Practitioner-led Respiratory Clinic (GP Respiratory Clinic).

### 13. If a non-Medicare eligible patient does turn up (despite prompting to attend another clinic), can they be privately billed?

No, the vaccine will be free for all Australian citizens, permanent residents, and most visa holders. Patients who are not eligible for Medicare will be encouraged to attend a Commonwealth-funded GP Respiratory Clinic or state or territory vaccination clinic to receive their vaccine for free.

Please note pharmacies will **not** receive funding for providing vaccinations to a non-Medicare eligible patient.

## COVID-19 VACCINE FAQs

### 14. What training must be undertaken?

The COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program is now available, and can be accessed via: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-training-program>.

The training link includes:

- Modules targeted at health professionals in hospitals who will be administering the Pfizer vaccine
- Modules for health professionals who will be administering the AstraZeneca vaccine. AstraZeneca vaccines will be made available to pharmacies with successful EOI outcomes.

All vaccinators must undertake the COVID-19 Vaccination Training prior to administering vaccinations.

### 15. How long will training take to complete?

The training will take approximately 3-4 hours to complete.

The Australian Government has partnered with the Australian College of Nursing to develop and deliver free and accredited training modules for individuals involved in the administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

In preparation for Australia's vaccine rollout, authorised immunisation providers must complete COVID-19 vaccination training to ensure competency standards are met to administer COVID-19 vaccines. An expert advisory group, comprising of key peak body representatives and professional colleges are assisting to develop, review and finalise the training materials.

COVID-19 vaccine training modules are categorised into two groups, core and additional. Core COVID-19 modules involve training for COVID-19 vaccination more broadly. Additional COVID-19 modules are specific to individual vaccine candidates.

Core COVID-19 training modules will cover:

- handling and storage
- multi-dose vial (MDV) training
- delivery mechanisms of the vaccine
- administrative reporting including eligibility checking
- safety and surveillance monitoring and reporting for adverse events following immunisation
- communication.

Additional COVID-19 training modules include specific training for:

- BioNTech/Pfizer
- Oxford University/AstraZeneca
- Novavax
- future vaccines (i.e as possible new vaccines emerge).

Information on the training requirements can be found on the [Department's website](#).