







COVID-19 Vaccines in Australia

The table below provides key differences between each COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia as per the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Guidelines.

	PRIMARY COURSE					
	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 5 to 11 years ¹ Primary Course	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older ¹ Primary Course	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (6-11 years) ²	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (12 years and older) ²	Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Primary Course	Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) Primary Course
Vaccine type	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	Protein-based	Viral vector
Approved age	5 to 11 years ⁵	12 years and older	6 to 11 years ⁴	12 years and older	18 years and older	18 years and older
Cap colour	 Orange	 Purple	 Red	 Red	 Blue	 Red
Dose volume	0.2mL	0.3mL	0.25mL	0.5mL	0.5mL	0.5mL
Doses per vial	10	6	20	10	10	10
Dilution required	Yes (1.3mL)	Yes (1.8mL)	No	No	No	No
Recommended dose interval	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	3 weeks	12 weeks
Approved primary course dose interval⁷	3 to 8 weeks	3 weeks minimum	4 to 8 weeks	4 weeks minimum	3 weeks minimum	4 to 12 weeks
Third dose (as part of primary course for individuals with severe immunocompromise)³	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, there is limited data on the immunogenicity or efficacy of Novavax in people with immunocompromise	Yes, but not preferred ⁶
Storage temperature for unopened vials	8°C to 30°C (Cumulative 24 hours, pre- and post-dilution) 2°C to 8°C (10 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (9 months)	8°C to 30°C (2 hours) 2°C to 8°C (31 days) -25°C to -15°C (2 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (12 hours) 2°C to 8°C (6 months)	2°C to 8°C (6 months)
ATAGI recommendations for pre-drawn doses	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	Storing pre-drawn doses of this vaccine in syringes is not preferred	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)
ATAGI recommendations for storing open vials	12 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C) or 48 hours (at 2°C to 8°C)
Transport limitations	80 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	Nil	Nil





Notes

- The Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older vaccine should not be administered to children aged under 12 years in any form.
- Spikevax (Moderna) is the same product for 6-11 years, and 12 years and older.
- ATAGI recommends that all severely immunocompromised individuals aged 5 years and over receive a 3rd primary dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Children who turn 12 years of age after their first dose may receive the adolescent/adult dosage (0.5mL) of the Moderna vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course.
- Children who turn 12 years of age after their first dose may receive the adolescent/adult dosage (0.3mL) of the Pfizer Comirnaty 12 years and older vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course.
- Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) can be used for the third dose for individuals who have received Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) for their first two doses if there are no contraindications or precautions for use, or if a significant adverse reaction has occurred after a previous mRNA vaccine dose which contraindicates further doses of mRNA vaccine (e.g. anaphylaxis, myocarditis).
- recommended interval for administration of a second COVID-19 vaccine dose using any alternative brand is 4 to 12 weeks after the first dose, regardless of first dose brand.
- A shorter interval (down to three weeks for Pfizer-BioNTech; four weeks for Moderna) between the first and second doses could be utilised for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised [see Box on Immunocompromising Conditions]; those at risk of severe disease [see Medical Conditions Table] and adults aged 65 years and older.

COVID-19
VACCINATION

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The table below provides key differences between each COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia as per the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Guidelines.

	BOOSTERS			
	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older ¹ Booster Dose	Spikevax (Moderna) Booster dose ¹	Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Booster dose - yes if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that individual ²	Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) Booster dose - not preferred
Vaccine type	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	Protein-based	Viral vector
Approved age	16 years and older ¹	18 years and older ¹	18 years and older	18 years and older
Cap colour	 Purple	 Red	 Blue	 Red
Dose volume	0.3mL	0.25mL	0.5mL	0.5mL
Doses per vial	6	20	10	10
Dilution required	Yes (1.8mL)	No	No	No
Recommended dose interval	3 months after primary course	3 months after primary course	3 months after primary course	3 months after primary course
Winter dose³	4 months after previous dose or from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection For eligible populations	4 months after previous dose or from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection For eligible populations	Not preferred. 4 months after previous dose or from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection For eligible populations	Not preferred. 4 months after previous dose or from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection For eligible populations
Storage temperature for unopened vials	8°C to 30°C (2 hours) 2°C to 8°C (31 days) -25°C to -15°C (2 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (12 hours) 2°C to 8°C (6 months)	2°C to 8°C (6 months)
ATAGI recommendations for pre-drawn doses	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	Storing pre-drawn doses of this vaccine in syringes is not preferred	1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)
Storage time for open vials	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C)
Transport limitations	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	Nil	Nil

Notes

- For people aged 16 to 17 years, Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older is the only vaccine registered for use as a booster.
- Novavax is not approved by TGA as a booster, and under the Vaccine Administration Code in some states and territories pharmacists cannot administer Novavax unless it is TGA approved. Please check the Vaccine Administration Code in your state or territory before administering Novavax booster doses.
- Please refer to the ATAGI statement from 25 March 2022 for which groups are eligible for a winter dose (ATAGI statement).