

## ATAGI Advice about Pfizer 5-11 years vaccine (orange top) | Placing Orders

Dear Service Provider,

This email provides information about the provision of Pfizer 5-11 years COVID-19 vaccines (orange top), orders and deliveries as part of the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy Program (CVCP), as follows:

- Pfizer 5-11 years doses are a specific paediatric formulation
- Pfizer 5-11 years doses are now authorised following ATAGI advice and will be made available in Community Pharmacy subject to jurisdictional regulations
- Vaccine orders from December 2021 and deliveries during January 2022.

### **Pfizer 5-11 years doses (orange top) are a specific paediatric formulation**

Pfizer 5-11 years doses contain a lower dose of vaccine than the adult formulation. The Pfizer vaccine for children 5 to 11 years is a different formulation from the Pfizer vaccine approved for those aged 12 and over and is differentiated by an orange cap. It can be stored for a maximum of **10 weeks between 2°C to 8°C**

Importantly:

- Pfizer is the only vaccine approved for use in this age group.
- The primary course is two doses with an interval of 8 weeks.
- The interval can be shortened to a minimum of 3 weeks in special circumstances.

Pfizer 5-11 years (orange top) doses must be specifically ordered and require different preparation and handling procedures. It is important that you review the specific training available in respect of Pfizer 5-11 years vaccines prior to receiving your first delivery. This will be made available to pharmacies in the near future. **We will alert participating pharmacies when the training module is available.**

It is also important that pharmacies:

- Do not, under any circumstances, use the adult formulation to administer doses to patients aged 5 to 11.
- Separate the administration of Pfizer 5-11 (orange top) doses from other doses by either time or space to minimise the potential for dosing errors.
- Read the updated Community Pharmacy Onboarding Pack (version 5) which includes Pfizer 5-11 years product information and vaccine administration procedures – this will be available on the PPA Website ahead of 10 January 2022.

**Pfizer 5-11 years doses are now authorised following ATAGI advice and will be available in Community Pharmacy subject to jurisdictional regulations**

The Australian Government has authorised the provision of Comirnaty (Pfizer) paediatric doses via the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy (CVCP) Program from 10 January 2022. This authorisation follows the release of a statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommending all children aged 5 to 11 receive a paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

ATAGI's statement, [available here](#), details the arrangements for paediatric doses and indicates that:

- Children aged 5 to 11 years with medical risk factors for severe illness, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and children living in crowded conditions or outbreak areas are most likely to benefit from COVID-19 vaccination given their increased risk of severe outcomes and/or exposure.
- Children aged 5-11 years who have previously had SARS-CoV-2 infection can receive the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine following recovery from their illness (or vaccination can be deferred for up to 6 months).
- Children who turn 12 after their first dose may receive the adolescent / adult formulation of the Pfizer vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course
- The Pfizer 5-11 years vaccine can be co-administered with other (non-COVID) vaccines, such as the influenza vaccine.

Importantly:

- As outlined in the [CVCP Program Rules](#), you must **ensure that your jurisdictional regulations have been updated to allow Community Pharmacy to administer COVID-19 vaccines to this cohort**. Deliveries will not proceed to jurisdictions that have not updated their authorised immuniser standards for pharmacy.
- Pharmacies are able to register paediatric dose of a COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years in the **Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)** as per usual practice. **Please remember to check the AIR prior to administering any COVID-19 vaccines.**
- **Booster doses are not yet recommended for this cohort** (those under the age of 18 years), as severe COVID-19 is uncommon in this age group and the primary course of COVID-19 vaccines generate a strong immune response, so the benefit from additional doses of vaccine is likely to be small.

## Vaccine orders and deliveries during December 2021 and January 2022

Pfizer 5-11 years (orange top) COVID-19 vaccine orders and consumables can be placed in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS) from Saturday 11 December 2021.

You will receive an ongoing allocation of 100 or 200 doses of thawed Pfizer each fortnight.

- You can order up to your maximum allocation in multiples of 100 doses. *Note this allocation is separate to your existing allocation for the Pfizer 12 years and over vaccine.*
- Please only order what you need, when you need it, to limit wastage of COVID-19 vaccines.

Deliveries of Pfizer 5-11 years vaccines are expected to arrive in pharmacies in either the week commencing 3 January or 10 January 2022, depending on when your pharmacy has placed the order. Orders from:

- Saturday 11 December to Friday 17 December 2021 will receive deliveries by Friday 7 January 2022
- Saturday 18 December to Friday 24 December 2021 will receive deliveries by Friday 14 January 2022.

Please do not book appointments until you have received your paediatric vaccine stock.

Pharmacies can commence administering paediatric vaccinations from Monday 10 January 2022, in line with the ATAGI advice. Claims for paediatric primary course vaccinations can be made from Monday 10 January 2022.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator