

## MODERNA BOOSTER | INTERVALS FOR BOOSTERS | VCF UPDATE

Dear Service Provider,

This email provides information about a range of matters relevant to participating pharmacies in the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy (CVCP) Program, as follows:

- Moderna COVID-19 Boosters are now authorised following ATAGI advice
- Omicron variant and intervals for boosters
- Vaccine Clinic Finder updates.

### Moderna COVID-19 Boosters are now authorised following ATAGI advice

The Australian Government has authorised the provision of Spikevax (Moderna) booster doses via the COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy (CVCP) Program. Pharmacies can commence administering and claiming boosters **immediately**, in line with the ATAGI advice, with existing Moderna vaccine supplies. This authorisation follows the release of a statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

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

- The Moderna booster vaccine is authorised for all patients aged 18 years and older, including pregnant women.
- The dosage for use of the Moderna vaccine as a booster is 0.25mL (50µg), which is **half the recommended dosage** of the Moderna vaccine used for the primary course.

Importantly:

- Both mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Comirnaty (Pfizer)) are preferred over the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine for a booster dose. The AstraZeneca vaccine is not yet approved by the TGA as a booster, however, a single dose of AstraZeneca can be provided for people who have:
  - contraindications to mRNA vaccines (e.g. anaphylaxis or myocarditis); or
  - had AstraZeneca for their primary course.

- Individuals remain fully vaccinated with the primary two-dose vaccination course, which provides a high level of protection against the worst effects of COVID-19. The booster will provide additional protection and is not mandatory.

### **Omicron variant and intervals for boosters**

On 12 December 2021, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) released a statement, [available here](#), on the Omicron variant and the timing of booster doses.

ATAGI has updated their advice and has recommended a COVID-19 booster dose for **anyone aged 18 years and over** who completed their primary course of COVID-19 vaccinations 5 or more months ago. Either Pfizer or Moderna are recommended for use as a booster vaccine.

ATAGI note that the anticipated benefits of bringing forward the booster dose include earlier protection, particularly against severe disease in those at risk, and improved protection against COVID-19 due to the Omicron variant.

### **Vaccine Clinic Finder Updates**

The Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF) continues to be improved to assist consumers to access COVID-19 vaccines. Recent amendments support the announcement of the provision of Pfizer 5-11 years (orange top).

The release scheduled for Wednesday 15 December 2021 will include:

- Advice that Pfizer has been approved for children between 5 to 11 years old.
- A separate button to help parents or carers of this cohort to find clinics that are administering the children's Pfizer doses.
- An alert notice for consumers that clinics may have different opening hours over the festive season. The notice will encourage consumers to check with their vaccination provider in advance if they're seeking an appointment during that time.
- A request for consumers to be patient as we work to make appointments available for children 5 to 11 years old.

The Taskforce is working closely with Healthdirect Australia, the Medical Software Industry Association (MSIA), and booking system providers to get booking systems ready for the 5-11 years old rollout by creating a separate appointment type for 5-11 years old, to tie in with Vaccine Clinic Finder changes.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator