

## IMPORTANT UPDATES FROM ATAGI AND NATIONAL COVID TASKFORCE

Dear Service Provider,

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

- ATAGI Update on Boosters
- Moderna allocations increased
- Christmas period deliveries
- Orders Update
- Information and consent form for children aged 5 to 11 years
- Vaccine achievements in 2021.

### ATAGI Update on Boosters

In light of the emerging evidence about the Omicron COVID-19 variant, the Australian Government has acted on the expert advice of the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI), issued 23 December 2021.

**ATAGI recommended the interval between a person's primary course of vaccination and when they are eligible for a booster dose be reduced.**

ATAGI has updated their advice, [available here](#):

- The minimum interval for a booster dose be **reduced to four months** for all people **aged 18 and over**.
- The booster rollout for people who have completed their primary course of vaccination at least four months ago **will start from 4 January**.

Importantly:

- **People who are immunocompromised** who have received three primary doses of a COVID-19 vaccine are also recommended to have a booster dose in line with the timing for the general population currently four-months from their primary course or third dose.

- **Vaccination sites should continue to support priority groups** such as those over 60s, residential aged care and disability care residents and workers, those with underlying medical conditions, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, frontline healthcare workers, quarantine and border workers, and critical and high-risk workers.

The Government's statement explaining the changes can be found [here](#).

*Pending: ATAGI have also recommended for boosters to be available for people who have completed their primary course of vaccination three months ago as soon as this can be worked into the vaccine rollout program. Further advice on this will be provided in January.*

### **Moderna allocations increased**

In response to unprecedented demand for Moderna vaccine during the holiday period, the allocation of Moderna vaccine will be increased. These arrangements will further support vaccine demand, and changes to the Booster intervals as mentioned above.

Revised ordering and delivery arrangements:

- If you have placed an order for Moderna in the current ordering window:
  - Your Moderna order that will be **delivered during the week 10 - 14 January 2022 has been doubled and your ongoing allocation has been increased.**
  - If you no longer require this order for delivery **during the week 10 - 14 January 2022**, please cancel it in CVAS before 11.59pm AEDT Friday 24 December.
- If you have not placed an order for Moderna in the current ordering window, when you do next place an order, **your allocation will be increased moving forward.**

Importantly:

- **Order what you need** - if you do not require the increased allocation, please remember that you are able to skip your next order, or refer to the [Transfer of Vaccines policy](#).



- **Access stock from other sites** - if you require vaccine stock urgently, we encourage you to reach out to any nearby vaccination sites administering COVID-19 vaccines who may have excess doses available for redistribution.
- **Monitor your orders** - you can view your orders at any time under the Orders tab in CVAS.

### Christmas period deliveries

Vaccine deliveries have been ramped up to meet the increased demand for booster doses. This week (commencing 20 December) has been our biggest delivery week for the COVID vaccine rollout program.

There have been:

- **6,637 consumables deliveries**, including **2,078 deliveries of consumables for 5 to 11-year-old Pfizer** in preparation for the start of the rollout.
- Along with **5,607 vaccine deliveries totalling 1,728,052 vaccine doses**.
- Prior to this, on average we have made 6,572 vaccine and consumables deliveries each week.

From 5 January, 730,600 doses of **Pfizer 5 to 11 year (Orange) vaccines will be delivered over three days** via 3,700 deliveries to sites. This is in addition to 1.5 million other doses to support the booster surge.

Importantly:

- **Deliveries are scheduled over the weekend of 8 and 9 January to pharmacies and practices that are open to maximise deliveries that week.**
- **In the week of 10 January, a further 106,800 doses will be delivered to the remaining sites.** These deliveries will be prioritised to be made on 10 and 11 January and these practices will be contacted by the Taskforce.

Despite the increased demand and number of deliveries, **all sites that placed an order for paediatric doses will be able to commence vaccinations from 10 January.**

## Ordering Update

Due to unprecedented demand, orders for Pfizer 12 years+ (Purple), AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine and consumables placed this week during the current order window **will be delivered during the week 10 - 14 January 2022**. (*UPDATED since PPA notice of 18 December*)

There are different **ordering and delivery arrangements over the holiday period**.

- Key ordering and delivery dates for **Pfizer 12 years and over (Purple), AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine:**

<b>End of ordering cycle placed in CVAS</b>	<b>Requested Delivery Date (RDD)</b>
17 December 2021	7 January 2022
24 December 2021	14 January 2022 ** UPDATED
31 December 2021	14 January 2022
7 January 2022	21 January 2022

- Key ordering and delivery dates for the **Pfizer 5 to 11 years (Orange):**

<b>End of ordering cycle placed in CVAS</b>	<b>Requested Delivery Date (RDD)</b>
17 December 2021	7 January 2022
24 December 2021	14 January 2022
31 December 2021	14 January 2022
7 January 2022	21 January 2022

Importantly:

- **No orders will be delivered** between Friday 24 December 2021 and Tuesday 4 January (inclusive).
- **The Taskforce will contact pharmacies if there are any delays to this delivery.**
- **The normal ordering cycle for all vaccines will resume in the week ending 31 December 2021**, with orders placed this week being delivered in the week ending RDD 14 January 2022.

## Information and Consent Form for children aged 5 to 11 years

COVID-19 vaccine information and consent form for parents and guardians of children aged 5 to 11 years has been prepared. This resource provides key information and can be found [here](#).



## **Vaccine achievements in 2021**

Community pharmacy is integral to Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan. So far nearly 3 million COVID-19 vaccinations have been administered by pharmacies to patients in their local communities.

The professional contributions made by pharmacies has resulted in a high vaccination rate of around 50,000 doses administered each day – and ensure the nation has broad coverage of COVID-19 vaccinated people across the country.

On behalf of the National COVID Vaccine Taskforce, we thank you and your staff for the valued contribution to the COVID vaccination program in 2021.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator