

## 12 January 2022- Packaging and Use By Dates for Pfizer 5-11 Years Vaccine | Defrost Use By Date vs Use By Date for Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines | COVID Vaccine Training and Corrections

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:

- Packaging and Use By Dates for Pfizer 5-11 years vaccine
- Defrosted Use By Date vs Use By Date for Pfizer and Moderna vaccines
- COVID Vaccine Training and Corrections.

### Packaging and Use By Dates for Pfizer 5-11 years vaccine

The Taskforce would like to draw attention to the following important matters to ensure adherence with the Expiry Date of the Pfizer 5-11yo (Orange cap) vaccine.

Importantly:

- The outer carton Use By Date should be checked and noted for use (see picture, below)
- All thawed deliveries will have a Use By Date and Thawed date labelled on the carton prior to dispatch from DHL. **Sites should use the carton date as the Use By Date**
- The date printed on each individual vial of the Pfizer (5-11) vaccine is the manufacture date (not the expiry date).

Example label, located on the front of the outer carton pack.



This information is also included in the COVID-19 Vaccine Training Module, which advises that:

*The expiry date (Use By) will NOT be printed on each individual vial, only the manufacture date, so it is vital that the outer carton expiry date is checked and noted. **The expiry Use By Date and thawed date will be labelled on the carton prior to dispatch from DHL.***

*Check that the expiry Use By Date and thawed date has been labelled on the outer carton when delivered. The label on the carton should reflect the refrigerated expiry date and the original expiry date. The earlier date must be used.*

**The Taskforce requests that you record the expiry dates for each delivery at the time of doing the delivery acceptance report.**

### **Defrosted/Thawed Use By Date vs Use By Date for Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines**

It is important to be aware of the difference between the Defrosted/Thawed Use By Date and the Use By Date for the mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer):

- The **Use By Date** on the vial indicates the expiry for the vaccine vial
- The **Defrosted/Thawed Use By Date** commences at the time the vials are removed from the freezer or ultra-low storage to commence thawing.

Importantly:

- Whichever date is earliest is the last date the vaccines should be administered to a patient
- Pharmacies should have clearly labelled and visible Defrosted/thaw Use By Dates for each vial – noting these will be different for subsequent deliveries
- Please ensure your site has clear processes to identify and action these dates to prevent vaccine administration errors.

#### **REMINDER:**

##### *Moderna*

- An unopened thawed vial of the Moderna vaccine can be kept at 2° to 8°C for 30 days
- The thaw date label is visible on the vial packaging or on the box containing the vials for Moderna when delivered and the thaw Use By Date is calculated from then.

##### *Pfizer 12 years and over (Purple cap)*

- An unopened thawed vial of the Pfizer vaccine can be kept at 2° to 8°C for 31 days
- The thaw date label is visible on the vial packaging for Pfizer when delivered and the thaw Use By Date is calculated from then.

##### *Pfizer 5 to 11 years (Orange cap)*

- An unopened thawed vial of the Pfizer Paediatric vaccine can be kept at 2° to 8°C for 10 weeks

- For thawed deliveries, the Defrosted date and Use By Date will be labelled on the outer carton
- While the information printed on the pack and the vial advises to discard the vaccine 6 hours after opening, the vial can be discarded 12 hours after opening. The date on each individual vial is the manufacture date.

## COVID Vaccine Training and Corrections

The Pfizer (5 to 11) COVID-19 Vaccine Training Module is **mandatory** for all vaccine providers administering the new vaccine. It went live on Monday 20 December 2021 and is available [online](#).

Important updates to the COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program:

- There have been a number of important updates to reflect the **latest advice on booster doses and the Pfizer (5 to 11) vaccine**
- It is very important that pharmacy immunisers log back into the training platform to review the updates.

Correction:

- **The expiry date for frozen vaccine is 6 months** – *not 9 months as previously reported in the COVID Training Module.*

**A summary of the updates** can be found in the [announcement board](#), located at the top of the main page.

Kind Regards,  
Pharmacy Programs Administrator