

19 January 2022- BOOSTER UPDATE | MODERNA ALLOCATION INCREASE

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:

- Booster Update
 - Advice on Booster Interval
 - ATAGI Recommendations for Children aged 5 to 11 years
- Moderna Allocation Increase.

BOOSTER UPDATE

Advice on Booster Interval

On 24 December 2021, the ATAGI released a [statement](#) around boosters being shortened from six months to **four months**.

As part of this advice, ATAGI also advised that when practical, this should be shortened to **three months**.

The Australian Government [announced](#) boosters set 31 January as the expected date from which that would occur, allowing time for those in the four month category to be prioritised.

It has been an option for primary care to implement this earlier if practical, in line with the ATAGI advice.

Earlier today, a number of state governments announced booster doses would be available after three months at state run clinics as they have capacity and available bookings.

All primary care vaccination sites may also provide boosters at 3 months if there are appointments available.

Please continue to prioritise high risk populations, older people, aged care residents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, aged care, disability & health care workers, people with disability and those with underlying medical conditions.

Please continue with Pfizer 5-11 vaccinations as per normal, the changes to booster intervals do not change this cohort of the Program Roll-out.

ATAGI recommendations for Children aged 5 to 11 years

On 17 January 2022, ATAGI released a statement regarding vaccination intervals and doses for children aged 5 to 11 years old. ATAGI recommended:

- a third primary dose to optimise protection for severely immunocompromised individuals aged 12 and over, be expanded to include severely immunocompromised children aged 5 to 11 years old; and
- a two-dose schedule for 5 to 11 year old cohort continue to be given 8 weeks apart, but can be shortened to a minimum of 3 weeks in special circumstance, for higher risk groups in the context of ongoing community transmission.

MODERNA ALLOCATION INCREASE

The National COVID Vaccine Taskforce has increased allocations for Spikevax (Moderna) for community pharmacies who ordered a high proportion of their allocation (since mid-December 2021) to further support the rollout of boosters to the Australian population.

All of the aforementioned pharmacies have received an immediate automatic increase to their dose allocation, effective from the ordering window commencing Saturday 15 January.

- Sites with an allocation of less than 600 doses per week have had their allocation **increased** to 600 doses
- Sites with an allocation of 600 doses, have been **increased** to 750 doses per week
- Sites with an allocation of 700 doses or 750 doses, have been **increased** to 900 doses per week.

Note: The Moderna dose allocation quantity displayed in CVAS is currently calculated as 10 doses per vial. When administering Moderna boosters, please ensure that the dosage as a booster dose is 0.25mL (half the recommended dose used for the primary course), allowing 20 doses per vial.

Kind Regards,
Pharmacy Programs Administrator