

**11 February 2022 - ATAGI Update | TGA Update | Booster Doses| COVID-19 Digital Certificate | Decommission of CBP and CVIP Update | Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF) | Nuvaxovid (Novavax Update) | Reminders**

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
- TGA Update
- Booster Doses
- COVID-19 Digital Certificate
- Decommission of CBP and CVIP Update
- Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF)
- Nuvaxovid (Novavax Update)
- Reminders

## **ATAGI UPDATE**

### **ATAGI advice on 'up to date' status for COVID-19 vaccination**

The [Australian Government](#) has accepted advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) to help Australians stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations.

[ATAGI's advice](#) will ensure Australians have the maximum protection against COVID-19, particularly the Omicron variant.

Under the new advice:

- A person is **'up to date'** if they have completed all the doses recommended for their age and individual health needs.
- Everyone aged 16 years and older is recommended to receive a booster dose to maintain the best protection and an 'up to date' status. Booster doses are readily available for everyone aged 16 years and over, three months after they have received their last primary dose.
- If it has been longer than six months since a person's primary course and they haven't had a booster, they will no longer be considered **'up to date'** but instead will be considered 'overdue'. This recognises that protection against COVID-19 is reduced if a person is no longer **'up to date'** with their vaccinations.

ATAGI notes that the concept of being **up to date** with vaccination may be different to what has been required to be 'fully vaccinated', which is a term that has been used in the context of public health orders or mandates in various settings, including border control, quarantine, workplaces (e.g. aged care, health care). These applications may involve legal and policy implications and are not within the remit of ATAGI but should be considered in the implementation of this advice.

Vaccination requirements relating to international border settings are outside the remit of ATAGI and are a matter for other government policies.

## TGA UPDATES

### **The TGA provisionally approves Vaxzeria (AstraZeneca) for booster doses**

On 8 February 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [provisionally approved](#) the AstraZeneca vaccine as a booster vaccine for individuals aged 18 years and above.

The decision to receive Vaxzevria as a booster must be made in consultation with a medical professional. The mRNA COVID-19 vaccines Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Spikevax (Moderna) are preferred as the booster dose in Australia, irrespective of the primary COVID-19 vaccine used. This includes for people who received the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for their primary course.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is considering the regulatory approval of Vaxzeria as a booster and will provide their recommendations shortly.

The National COVID Vaccine Taskforce will provide further advice within the COVID-19 Vaccination Program once The Government has had the opportunity to consider ATAGI's final recommendations.

## BOOSTER DOSES

### **Aged Care and Disability Boosters**

To support aged care and disability workers to receive their booster dose, primary care providers are encouraged to accept priority vaccination appointments from aged care and disability workers – particularly in those jurisdictions mandating booster doses.

It is now a mandatory condition of employment for residential aged care workers in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia to receive a COVID-19 booster dose. This extends to in-home and community aged care workers in the Northern Territory, South Australia and Western Australia.

The attached document provides further information on this.

## **COVID-19 DIGITAL CERTIFICATE**

### **Enhancement to COVID-19 digital certificate**

The COVID-19 Digital Certificate has recently been enhanced to display more than two COVID-19 vaccinations. Previously, the COVID-19 Digital Certificate only displayed the most recent two vaccinations.

This enhancement means that COVID-19 Digital Certificates will display all COVID-19 vaccinations an individual has received, including booster doses.

Once an individual's vaccinations have been reported to the AIR, proof of vaccination can be viewed online using their Medicare online account through myGov, or their Medicare Express Plus app. Individuals should receive notification via myGov once they are able to generate a COVID-19 Digital Certificate.

Individuals that have received a booster dose prior 23 January 2022 will need to regenerate their COVID-19 Digital Certificate for it to display their additional COVID-19 vaccinations.

## **DECOMMISSION OF CBP and CVIP UPDATE**

### **Decommission of Commonwealth Booking Platform (CBP) and Clinician's Vaccination Integrated Platform (CVIP)**

As previously advised, the Commonwealth Booking Platform (CBP) and the Clinician Vaccine Integrated Platform (CVIP) will retire in mid-2022.

CBP and CVIP were temporary digital solutions to help accelerate the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout. They played a vital role in creating more than 2 million online vaccination bookings.

Only a limited number of sites are currently using the CBP and CVIP, and with the growth in commercial booking and reporting software available, the Department of Health is taking steps to decommission the services by mid-2022.

Vaccine providers using the CBP and CVIP were advised on 7 February 2022 about the need to transition to an alternative booking and reporting process or commercially available product by mid-2022.

Later in the month, the [Medical Software Industry Association](#) (MSIA) will host a series of webinars and online resources to make an informed choice on commercially available products.

## **VACCINE CLINIC FINDER (VCF)**

### **Introducing VCF Connect**

There is an easy way for COVID 19 vaccine providers to update information about their services in the Vaccine Clinic Finder, using VCF Connect.

Using VCF Connect, vaccine providers can:

- Update clinic Information, such as opening hours for vaccine services, and change them for public holidays
- Enjoy faster turnaround times for updates to go live in the Vaccine Clinic Finder
- Provide a quality online experience for all people trying to use vaccine services
- Reduce onerous and time-consuming manual processes.

The national rollout for VCF Connect commenced on Wednesday 2 February and will continue in a series of tranches until all primary care vaccination providers are sent registration emails planned to be completed by 28 February.

VCF Connect Registration emails are sent to the authorised contacts on the COVID 19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS). It is important for all vaccine providers to register for VCF Connect because the current manual processes for updating the Vaccine Clinic Finder will cease from 31 March 2022.

If vaccination providers have further questions, please encourage them to contact [CV19.Products@health.gov.au](mailto:CV19.Products@health.gov.au) or 1800 316 375. The Taskforce is grateful for your ongoing support to keep your members informed with VCF Connect updates.

## **NUVAXOVID (NOVAVAX) UPDATE**

### **Novavax Roll-out Update**

A reminder that ordering for Tranche 2 sites has now opened and will close midnight tonight, Friday 11 February 2022, to commence administering Novavax in the week of 28 February 2022.

All sites who have ordered Novavax will be surfaced on the Vaccine Clinic Finder, progressively from Monday 14th February. The VCF will display their ability to administer the Novavax Vaccine and take appointments. Initially clinics will be listed as phone only, and will be updated to online bookings as soon as possible. As per usual, when you have

confirmation of your delivery window, please make appointments available in your online systems, if you use an online booking system.

### **Novavax Factsheet**

The National COVID-19 Vaccine Taskforce recently sent out information that included a Nuvaxovid (Novavax) letter and factsheet.

A discrepancy was found in the factsheet. The Novavax factsheet incorrectly advised the vaccine could be stored at 2°C to 8°C for a maximum of nine months, the team would like to advise this should be maximum of six months according to the expiry date on the label (as per ATAGI guidance).

## **REMINDERS**

### **Priority group vaccinations**

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

### **Expiring Vaxzeria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccines**

The Taskforce thanks those sites that have advised the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) of excess AstraZeneca (AZ) that may be suitable for overseas donation. There is currently sufficient supply of vaccine to our regional partners and we will not be redistributing the excess short-expiry vaccines located at your sites.

Please continue to seek local redistribution solutions where possible. Should your vaccines expire, please complete a wastage report through CVAS and dispose of the stock in line with your local jurisdictions clinical waste disposal requirements.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator