

3 February 2022- TGA and ATAGI Updates | Vaccine Updates | Novavax Roll-out Update| Communications | Decommission of CBP and CVIP | Vaccine Clinic Finder Connect 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 Program (CVCP), as follows:

- TGA and ATAGI Updates
- Vaccine Updates
- Novavax Roll-out Update
- Communications
- Decommission of CBP and CVIP
- Vaccine Clinic Finder Connect Update.

TGA and ATAGI Updates

TGA provisionally approves Pfizer as a booster in individuals aged 16-17 years old

On 28 January 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [provisionally approved](#) the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine as a booster vaccine for individuals aged **16 and 17 years old**.

Following this provisional approval, the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) considered the regulatory authority's approval and released recommendations on booster doses for 16-17 years within the Australian context.

ATAGI has provided the following [recommendations](#) regarding Pfizer boosters:

- A booster vaccination with the Pfizer (12 years and over - 'purple top') vaccine, for all adolescents aged 16 to 17 years old who have previously received any TGA approved or recognised vaccines for their primary vaccine schedule.
- Booster vaccination can occur from three months after receiving the last primary dose.
- This includes those who were aged under 16 years when they received their last primary dose and are now aged 16 years.
- Those 16 to 17 years who are immunocompromised and have received a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine should also receive a booster dose (fourth dose) of the Pfizer vaccine when they become eligible.
- Those 16 to 17 years with risk factors for severe disease including chronic disease or pregnancy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, or those in work or environmental settings that place them at higher risk should receive their booster as soon as eligible.

Vaccine Updates

Packaging for Pfizer (5 to 11) vaccine

The first batch of Pfizer (5 to 11) vaccine supplied in Australia had EUA artwork (manufacture date label) on each vial and DHL added an expiry date to the outer carton. From now on batches supplied to Australia will have the Comirnaty artwork (**expiry date label**) on each vial.

Week of Allocation	Batch No.	Artwork	Label
Week of Dec. 20	FP1430	EUA artwork	Manufacture Date
Week of Jan. 17	FP8290	Comirnaty artwork	Expiry Date
Week of Jan. 31	FP9643	Comirnaty artwork	Expiry Date
Week of Feb. 7	FN4073	Comirnaty artwork	Expiry Date

Pfizer shelf-life extension

The TGA has approved a shelf-life extension of **Pfizer 12+**, provided the approved storage conditions between -90°C to -60°C have been maintained. The [attached notice](#) provides details on the batch numbers impacted as a result of this extension and the updated expiry date to be used. To note:

- Thawed deliveries will continue to have the defrost date noted on the packaging.
- Individual vials will not be relabelled with the extended expiry dates.
- Make sure you continue to use any thawed vaccine prior to the defrost expiry date.
- **The new expiry date of each batch will also be reflected in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS) when completing delivery acceptance.**

Moderna shelf-life extension

- On 24 December, the TGA has approved a new shelf-life for **Spikevax (Moderna)** from **7 to 9 months** when stored at -25°C to -15°C.
- This shelf-life extension only applies to frozen vials.
- The [attached letter](#) provides details on the batch numbers impacted as a result of this extension and the updated expiry date to be used.

Novavax Roll-out Update

There has been very strong interest across Australia from primary care sites wishing to administer Nuvaxovid (Novavax) vaccine. Thank you to those pharmacies that have provided their interest in the recent Expression of Interest (EOI) process.

Due to the level of interest:

- Sites will be onboarded in two tranches. The tranches have been identified by taking into account vaccination rates, to maintain per capita state equity and align with existing order windows where possible.
- Sites identified in the first tranche will receive an onboarding invitation later this week.
- Once you have been activated for the new product in CVAS, you will need to login to complete the Novavax Site Readiness Declaration and can then place your first order for the Novavax vaccine.
- **Please note consumables for your first Novavax delivery will be placed automatically for all sites approved and you will be able to see this in CVAS before placing your first order for Novavax.**
- **You will not need to order any paired consumables when you are placing your first Novavax vaccine order.**

Communications

["Don't forget to check" Poster](#)

The *Don't forget to check* poster above has been developed by the Vaccine Operations Centre Clinical Team in response to a recent increase in Vaccine Administration Errors (VAEs).

- The poster is intended for all vaccine administration sites to remind administrators to check preparation and administration details before administering a dose.
- The preparation checklist includes thaw and manufacture expiry dates, time the vial was first punctured and time the syringe was drawn.
- The administration checklist includes checking the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) before administering the vaccine, checking the vaccine type, dose interval and dose for the intended patient and confirming that the vaccine has been diluted correctly.

Decommission Of Commonwealth Booking Platform (Cbp) And Clinician'S Vaccination Integrated Platform (CVIP)

The Commonwealth Booking Platform (CBP) and the associated Clinician's Vaccination Integrated Platform (CVIP) is being decommissioned by 30 June 2022. Advice will be sent out regarding this change shortly.

Vaccine Clinic Finder Connect Update

The national rollout for Vaccine Clinic Finder Connect (VCF Connect) will commence in coming weeks to all primary care sites administering COVID-19 vaccines

VCF Connect allows vaccination providers to self-manage clinic information on the Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF).

Vaccination providers can manage clinic details such as operating hours or list additional services they provide in their clinics.

Importantly:

- All vaccination providers will have the opportunity to join VCF Connect.
- All vaccination providers will be welcomed to the VCF Connect during February-early March.
- Once vaccination providers have received their welcome registration email to join VCF Connect, you must use VCF Connect to update information on your vaccination services on the VCF.
- **All manual processes for updates in the Vaccine Clinic Finder will cease on 31 March 2022.**
- Further information will be sent to participating vaccination providers in the coming weeks, including details on training events.
- If you have any questions, please email CV19.Products@Health.gov.au.

VCF Connect offers a number of benefits. Vaccination providers can:

- Self-manage clinic information published to the VCF
- Include additional information about clinics
- Reduce the time it takes for updates
- Reduces onerous manual processes
- Change opening hours over holiday periods

VCF Connect is based on the Australian Digital Health Agency's [Provider Connect Australia](#). VCF Connect was successfully trialled in a pilot program available to 270 clinics in October-December 2021. The national rollout for VCF Connect will commence in coming weeks to all primary care sites administering COVID-19 vaccines. Vaccination providers can prepare for VCF Connect by ensuring they have a PRODA account and looking for an on-boarding email with details on how to register to use the system.

Kind Regards,
Pharmacy Programs Administrator

