

**22 March 2022- Children second dose vaccinations | ATAGI Clinical Guidance on VAEs | Vaccine Expiry Dates | VOC Operating Hours**

Dear Service Provider,

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

- Children 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccinations
- ATAGI Clinical Guidance on Vaccine Administration Errors
- Vaccine Expiry Dates
- VOC Operating Hours.

**Children 2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccinations**

Many children are now eligible for their second dose. It is now over eight weeks from when the 5-11yo vaccination roll out began.

A reminder both Pfizer and Moderna can be administered to children, noting:

Pfizer 5-11yo vaccine	Moderna 6-11yo vaccine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is a specific paediatric formulation.</li> <li>• contains a lower dose of vaccine than the adult formulation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the same vaccine formulation is used as for Moderna 12 years and older</li> <li>• Moderna 6 to 11 years dose is <b>half the dose</b> used for the primary course for people 12 years and older.</li> </ul>

Importantly:

- The [children vaccine administration checklist](#) has been developed to help avoid vaccine administration errors in children.

Pharmacies are encouraged to proactively reach out to parents and carers of children who have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and are now due for their second dose.

Pharmacies to please consider:

- Making appointments available outside school hours, on the weekend or through the upcoming school holidays
- Continuing to utilise the opportunity to conduct whole-family vaccination appointments. This may include booking in adults for their boosters along with their children for their COVID-19 vaccine.

### **ATAGI Clinical Guidance on Vaccine Administration Errors**

ATAGI has developed a [clinical guidance factsheet about VAEs](#).

Pharmacy immunisers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the VAE themes presented within – and adhere to best clinical practice.

Key VAE themes are:

- Incorrect vaccination site
- Higher than approved dose
- Lower than approved dose
- Only diluent administered (ie no vaccine ingredient)
- Vaccine administered after incorrect storage and handling
- Vaccine administered past the expiration date
- Mixed vaccine doses given (different brands given)
- Incorrect dose interval
- More doses administered than recommended by the relevant schedule.

The factsheet also provides useful information on replacement dose recommendations against specific VAEs.

A reminder, VAEs are to be reported to the VOC.

### **Vaccine Expiry Dates**

- The manufacture expiry date and the thaw use-by dates of each vaccine type should be checked prior to every vaccine administration. The below table may assist in summarising the current information.
- Furthermore, the [Information Summary Poster](#) provides key differences between each COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia. This Poster has been found to be an extremely useful resource.



	<b>Moderna</b>	<b>Pfizer (Purple Cap)</b>	<b>Pfizer 5-11 years (Orange Cap)</b>	<b>AstraZeneca and Novavax</b>
<b>Manufacturer Expiry Date</b>	<p>Extended from 7 to <b>9 months</b> from manufacture date (for certain batch numbers)</p> <p>This is provided that approved storage conditions have been maintained.</p> <p><a href="#">For more information click here.</a></p>	<p>Extended from 6 to <b>9 months</b> from manufacture date (for certain batch numbers)</p> <p>This is provided that approved storage conditions have been maintained.</p> <p><a href="#">For more information click here.</a></p>	<p>Extended from 6 to <b>9 months</b> from manufacture date (for certain batch numbers)</p> <p>This is provided that approved storage conditions have been maintained.</p> <p><a href="#">For more information click here.</a></p>	<p>AstraZeneca and Novavax <u>do not</u> have a thaw use-by date, they only have a manufacture expiry date.</p> <p>The manufacturer expiry date can be found on each individual vial and on the side of the vial box.</p>
<b>Thaw Use-by Date</b>	<p>Unopened thawed vial can be kept at 2° to 8°C for <b>30 days</b></p> <p>The thaw date label is visible on the vial packaging or on the box containing the vials when delivered and the thaw use-by date is calculated from then.</p> <p>Delivery Acceptance Reports in CVAS</p>	<p>Unopened thawed vial can be kept at 2° to 8°C for <b>31 days.</b></p> <p>The thaw date label is visible on the vial packaging or on the box containing the vials when delivered and the thaw use-by date is calculated from then.</p> <p>Delivery Acceptance Reports in CVAS automatically</p>	<p>Thawed deliveries can be kept at 2°C to 8°C for <b>10 weeks.</b></p> <p>All thawed deliveries will have a thaw use-by date and thawed date labelled on the carton prior to dispatch from DHL. The manufacturer expiry is on each individual vial and on the side of the vial box, with the</p>	



	automatically calculate defrost expiry dates for thawed vaccines.	calculate defrost expiry dates for thawed vaccines.	exception of batch FP1430 (manufacturer date is printed on the vial; 10/2021).	
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- It is vital that pharmacies are aware of the differences between the manufacture expiry date and the thaw use-by date for the mRNA vaccines (Moderna and Pfizer):
  - The manufacture expiry date on the vial indicates the expiry for the vaccine
  - The thaw use-by date commences at the time the vials are removed from the freezer or ultra-low storage to commence thawing
- **Whichever date is earliest is the last date the vaccines should be administered to a patient**
- All sites should clearly label thaw use-by dates for each vial – noting these will be different for subsequent deliveries
- It is good practice to also label each drawn up syringe with the expiry date/time.

### VOC Operating Hours

- From Sunday 3 April 2022 the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) will operate from 7am – 8pm AEST every day, including the upcoming Easter and Anzac Day public holidays.
- Remember you can email the VOC any time at [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au).
- Thank you to all those who responded to the operating hour survey and in recognition of the VOC's one year anniversary.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator