



3 March 2022 -ATAGI Update on Booster Doses | Vaccine Deliveries in Flood Affected Areas | Mixed Schedules | VCF Update on Moderna services| Reporting Moderna 6-11 in AIR | PPE Distribution Update | Important information for pharmacies

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 - Booster Doses
- Vaccine deliveries in Flood Affected Areas
- Mixed Schedules - ATAGI Recommendations
- VCF Update - Moderna services
- Reporting Moderna 6-11 in AIR
- PPE distribution update
- Important information for pharmacies.

ATAGI UPDATE - BOOSTER DOSES

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have updated their [recommendations](#) on the use of booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

What's changed:

- **Nuvaxovid (Novavax) can be used as a booster if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that individual aged 18 years and above.**
- **AstraZeneca is no longer recommended** for use as the booster dose for people who received a primary vaccination course of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. It can be administered if:
 - There are medical contraindications to the mRNA vaccines.
 - Individuals decline receiving an mRNA vaccine as a booster dose.
- **Either Pfizer or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) is preferred for as a booster dose in those aged 18 years and above.**
 - For those aged 16-17 years, only Pfizer vaccine should be used.
 - Either mRNA vaccine can be used for the booster dose regardless of which vaccine was used for the primary course.



VACCINE DELIVERIES IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS

- **Deliveries are affected to flood areas** in Queensland and New South Wales.
- The Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) is working with the QLD and NSW Health Departments and the Delivery Partners to provide alternate means for COVID vaccine deliveries.
- **Pharmacies will be contacted where their deliveries are impacted by floods.**
- Redelivery of vaccines and consumables will be organised when it is safe to do so, and when it is suitable for the pharmacy.
- **Further information will be provided as the situation changes.**

MIXED SCHEDULES - ATAGI RECOMMENDATIONS

- Four COVID-19 vaccines are available for use in a mixed dose schedule - Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Novavax.
- While ATAGI recommends using the same COVID-19 vaccine for a primary course, **mixed schedules (i.e. using an alternative vaccine brand for Dose 2) is permissible for a range of reasons**, such as specific medical contraindications.
- Refer to [ATAGI's Clinical Guidance about mixed dosing](#).

VCF Moderna Update

- From Monday 7 March, the Vaccine Clinic Finder will display two vaccine types for sites administering Moderna nationally. These are Moderna (for people aged 6-11) and Moderna (for people aged 12+).
- If you do not wish to administer to the 6-11 age group, please let the Taskforce know and this service will be removed.
- **To have a service removed, please contact pcdvcf@health.gov.au.**
- If you have further questions about VCF Connect, please contact CV19.Products@health.gov.au or 1800 316 375.
- FAQs can also be found on the [PPA website](#).

REPORTING MODERNA 6-11yo IN AIR

- When reporting in AIR, use the vaccine code '**MODERN**' for administration of Moderna vaccinations for individuals 6-11 years old. (*Same vaccine code as for Moderna 12+*).
- Please use the latest version of your clinical software to meet reporting requirements.



PPE DISTRIBUTION UPDATE

- PPE bundles are free to immunising pharmacists - as made available from the National Medical Stockpile.
- Soon, **PPE deliveries will be made directly to pharmacies**, removing the requirement for PHNs to be an intermediary distributor.
- There will be a transition phase over the next four weeks while PHNs run down current PPE stock levels.

Importantly:

- Pharmacies should read the latest [PPE Fact Sheet](#) on **completing the new pharmacy PPE order through their PHN.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PHARMACIES

Excess Stock on Hand - Order Approval

- Vaccine orders are assessed against Stock on Hand reports in CVAS.
- You are encouraged to consider current stock levels before placing further vaccine orders to minimise any vaccine wastage.
- The Taskforce reviews vaccine orders that exceed two or more times their fortnightly allocation for a given vaccine product.
 - You may receive a **warning message** in CVAS if your requested vaccine order is close to thresholds against your Stock on Hand report.
 - You may be requested to **provide a reason** in CVAS why you require large amounts of vaccine stock.
- **CVAS will post an email advising if your order has been approved or rejected.**
- Reasonable requests for additional vaccine orders will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Vaccine orders only

- Pharmacies are able to order vaccines only in CVAS - if consumables are not required.
- In CVAS:



- Use the 'Vaccine Only' checkbox when entering how many doses you require in an order for 'Vaccine and Paired Consumables.'
- Selecting this checkbox will allow you to place your order for vaccine **without** paired consumables.
- Alternatively:
 - If you **do not** select the 'Vaccine Only' checkbox, you are still able to order fewer than the default maximum number of consumables.
 - You can reduce the number of paired consumable items by clicking on the *pencil icon* when hovering over the consumables item. Type in a smaller quantity of packs needed, or zero (0) if you do not require any, and then hit Save.

Sharps Container Stock

Only the following Sharps containers remain available for ordering in CVAS:

- **303205**: BD Sharps Collector One-piece 1.4L
- **303207**: BD Sharps Collector One-piece 3L

BD Sharps Collector One-piece 8L (303208) and 17L (303209) stock levels have been run down and are not being procured further in the short term.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator