

**11 April 2022 - ATAGI Update about Booster doses in adolescents aged 12-15 years | Changes to VOC Operating Hours and delivery schedules during Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays | If intending to suspend or withdraw participation | Easy Vaccine Access 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 (CVCP) Program, as follows:

- ATAGI Update: Use of Booster doses in adolescents aged 12-15 years
- Changes to VOC Operating Hours and delivery schedules during Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays
- If intending to suspend or withdraw participation in the COVID Vaccine program
- Easy Vaccine Access Update.

**ATAGI Update: Use of Booster doses in adolescents aged 12-15 years**

ATAGI notes on 8 April 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [approved](#) a booster dose of Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine for use in adolescents aged 12-15 years.

ATAGI has reviewed evidence on the benefits and risks of a booster dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents in Australia aged 12-15 years. Current data suggest that COVID-related serious illness is very rare in adolescents aged 12-15, particularly after completion of a primary series of COVID-19 vaccination.

**At this time, ATAGI does [not recommend](#) that adolescents aged 12-15 years need to receive a booster dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.** ATAGI will continue to review international evidence on efficacy of a booster in this age group.

Importantly:

- ATAGI continue to strongly recommend vaccination of all young people aged 5 to 15 years with two primary doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, including those who may have previously had COVID-19;
- Three primary doses are recommended for those in this age group who are severely immunocompromised.



- ATAGI will continue to review and consider new evidence on the benefits and risks of any additional doses in 12-15 years old including for those with underlying medical conditions.

## **Changes to VOC Operating Hours and delivery schedules during Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays**

From Sunday 3 April 2022, the **Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) operating hours** changed to the following:

<b>Day</b>	<b>AEST</b>	<b>AWST</b>
Monday – Thursday	7am – 8pm	5am – 6pm
Friday	7am – 9pm	5am – 7pm
Saturday – Sunday	8am – 7pm	6am – 5pm

VOC operating hours will change during the **Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays**:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>VOC Opening Hours</b>
15/04/22	Good Friday	9am – 6pm AEST
16/04/22	Easter Saturday	9am – 6pm AEST
17/04/22	Easter Sunday	9am – 6pm AEST
18/04/22	Easter Monday	9am – 6pm AEST
25/04/22	ANZAC Day	9am – 6pm AEST

**Deliveries Schedules** across the Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Public Holiday</b>	<b>VOC Opening Hours</b>
15/04/22	Good Friday	To be delivered by RDD Thursday 14 April
18/04/22	Easter Monday	To be delivered by RDD Friday 22 April
25/04/22	ANZAC Day	To be delivered by RDD Friday 29 April

## **If intending to suspend or withdraw participation in the COVID Vaccine program**

Pharmacies wanting to withdraw from the COVID Vaccination Program or from administering selected vaccines must inform their intent.

The Taskforce is appreciative of the role community pharmacies play in the COVID

vaccination rollout. We understand not all pharmacies have the workforce to sustain ongoing administration of COVID vaccines. If your pharmacy is in this position, **please inform us of your intent to either suspend or withdraw from the program or amend the vaccines you will be administering by contacting [pcdvf@health.gov.au](mailto:pcdvf@health.gov.au).**

## Easy Vaccine Access Update

EVA (Easy Vaccine Access) is a simple call back service helping people book a COVID-19 vaccine.

A National Coronavirus Helpline agent provides personalised support to people who need extra help to book a COVID-19 vaccine, including:

- arranging an interpreter to be present during the call back
- calling vaccine providers during the call to book on the consumer's behalf
- finding a provider that suits their needs.

**Please help share EVA with your patients and the community.** Include the wording below on your social profiles, regular newsletter, and website.

*SMS **Hey EVA** to 0481 611 382 for help booking a COVID-19 vaccine. Someone from the National Coronavirus Helpline will call you back and find you an appointment. EVA is available every day from 7 am to 10 pm (AEST) with free interpreting assistance.*

[health.gov.au/eva](https://health.gov.au/eva)

Importantly:

- Healthcare and other service providers, with the consent of a consumer, can contact EVA to arrange a call back direct to the person.
- This means less time is diverted from other service provision in trying to find them a vaccine appointment.
- Simply follow the prompt below and input the consumer's details when requested.

Of interest:

- In its first week, EVA provided COVID-19 vaccine advice and booked vaccination appointments, with an 86% success rate.



- Many of the call backs were for the winter dose.  
*'So impressed with EVA. I'm booked for 4th booster. So quick and efficient and the nicest girl to deal with' - EVA user, 75 years old.*

If you have any feedback for EVA, please contact [digitalCV19@health.gov.au](mailto:digitalCV19@health.gov.au)

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator