



14 April 2022 - ATAGI Updates - several | Children 5-11yo now eligible for second dose | Opportunistic vaccination | If intending to suspend or withdraw participation | VOC Operating Hours during Easter and ANZAC Day

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 advice on use of sedation for COVID-19 vaccination
- ATAGI Clinical Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine administration errors
- Children aged 5-11 now eligible for second dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- Opportunistic vaccination
- If intending to suspend or withdraw participation in the COVID Vaccine program
- VOC Operating Hours and delivery schedules during Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays.

ATAGI advice on use of sedation for COVID-19 vaccination

ATAGI has provided [an overview of the principles for the use of sedation](#) as one of the range of measures to assist in the safe administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

ATAGI Clinical Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine administration errors

ATAGI has provided replacement dose advice for winter booster doses. Full advice is available at: [ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccine administration errors | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

Children aged 5-11 now eligible for second dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Many children are now eligible for their second dose of their primary course of COVID-19 vaccine.

- Pharmacies are encouraged to proactively reach out to parents and carers of children who have received their first dose of the vaccine and are now due for their second dose.
- Please consider making appointments available outside school hours or additional clinics on the weekend or through the school holidays.



Opportunistic vaccination

Please continue to utilise the opportunity to conduct whole-family vaccination appointments where available such as booking in adults for their boosters along with their children for their COVID-19 vaccine. Where possible, we would encourage pharmacies to directly reach out to patients not already booked in to support this booking as soon as possible.

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 pcdvcf@health.gov.au.**

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:

Day	AEST	AWST
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**:

Date	Public Holiday	VOC Opening Hours
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:

Date	Public Holiday	VOC Opening Hours
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

You can also contact the VOC via COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator