

21 April 2022 - Novavax Update | Stock Management and Fridge Capacity | Co-administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines | VOC Changes to 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 Program (CVCP), as follows:

- Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Update
 - Expiry Date Changes
 - Novavax Deliveries
- Stock Management and Fridge Capacity
- Co-administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines
- VOC Changes to Operating Hours.

Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Update

Novavax Expiry Date Changes

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved a shelf-life of 6 months from the date of manufacture of NUVAXOVID (Novavax), provided that approved storage conditions between 2°C to 8°C have been maintained.

Importantly:

- Cartons and vials of Nuvaxovid were labelled with an expiry in the month/year format but continue to meet the TGA approved shelf life up to 6 months after the date of manufacture.
- This is reflected in the revised expiry date when expressed as a day/month/year.

The **changed expiry date applies to the following batch number** that has been distributed:

Batch Number	Labelled Expiry Date	Date of Manufacture	Revised Expiry Date
4301MF004	Apr 22	22 Nov 2021	22 May 2022



Important to all Pharmacies with Novavax stock at sites

- This **revised** expiry date applies to **all Novavax vaccine** stock on site provided that approved storage conditions have been maintained.

Please update the expiry date on any vials you have on site to reflect the revised expiry date.

Novavax Deliveries

Deliveries of these batches of Novavax vaccine will continue for the next few weeks while a new batch of Novavax undergoes assessment and release to the Commonwealth.

Further information on timing will be provided in coming PPA Notices.

Importantly:

- The **packaging** associated with the affected batches that are delivered will be labelled with a **Use By Date** to reflect the revised expiry dates.
- Individual vials **will not** be relabelled with the revised expiry dates.
- **Please reference the above table when receiving Novavax vaccine for the correct expiry date.**
- The new expiry date of each batch will also be reflected in CVAS when completing delivery acceptance.

Stock Management and Fridge Capacity

This is a busy time of year for Pharmacies. Taking the time now to review your vaccine stock and management processes will help reduce the risk of vaccine administration errors and increased wastage with large amounts of stock on site.

Please remind your staff of the importance to adhere to the ['Strive for 5' Guidelines](#):

- *How are you managing both COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines on your site?*
- *Does your fridge have the capacity for safe storage of both vaccines?*
- *What ordering process do you have in place to safely manage fridge capacity and reduce risk of wastage?*

- *What strategies have you put in place to reduce the risk of inadvertent use of the incorrect vaccines?*
- *Are your paediatric vaccines stored separately to your adult vaccines (if applicable)?*
- *Have you checked your temperature monitoring equipment and processes?*

Co-administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines

A COVID-19 vaccination and an Influenza vaccination **can be administered at the same time** and may be provided to patients during the same attendance.

Pharmacies are encouraged to explain to their patients the possible fees in administering an Influenza vaccine.

- **The COVID vaccine and administration of the vaccine is FREE to the patient.**
- However, pending the jurisdictional arrangements for your State or Territory, the Influenza vaccine and administration of the Influenza vaccine **will / may / does not** incur a fee.

Please check your State or Territory clinical arrangements about the fee administration of the Influenza vaccine to patients in your local community.

VOC Changes to Operating Hours

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 **ANZAC Day public holidays:**

Date	Public Holiday	VOC Opening Hours
25/04/22	ANZAC Day	9am – 6pm AEST

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

Kind regards,
Pharmacy Programs Administrator