

29 April 2022 - ATAGI Update | Winter Dose for In-Reach Services | Winter Preparedness Webinar for Pharmacists | Novavax Expiry Date Changes (reminder)

Dear Service Provider,

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

- ATAGI Update
 - Extended mRNA dose interval
 - COVID-19 vaccination post infection (all doses)
- Winter Dose for In-Reach Services
- Winter Preparedness Webinar for Pharmacists (Invitation to attend)
- Novavax Expiry Date Changes (reminder).

ATAGI UPDATE

Extended mRNA dose interval

ATAGI [recommends](#) an **8-week interval between Dose One and Dose Two for Pfizer and Moderna** for people aged 5 years and older - and particularly for males aged 12 to 39 years.

The recommended dose interval for the two doses of the primary course of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines **was previously:**

- 3 to 6 weeks for Comirnaty (Pfizer)
- 4 to 6 weeks for Spikevax (Moderna).

Importantly:

- The extended dose interval of 8 weeks has been shown to improve the immune response to vaccination and therefore may improve effectiveness.
- A longer dose interval may also reduce the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis.
- The dose interval can be reduced (to a minimum of 3 weeks for Pfizer or 4 weeks for Moderna) for people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (including older adults and people with underlying medical conditions), in an outbreak setting, or prior to international travel.



COVID-19 vaccination post infection (all doses)

ATAGI have updated their advice on when people who have had COVID-19 should receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose. It is now [recommended](#) that **all people should wait for 3 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection before they receive their next COVID-19 vaccine dose.**

Importantly:

- The next scheduled dose should then be given as soon as possible after this period.
- This change in recommendation applies to all people who are recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccination (i.e., from 5 years and above), regardless of how many COVID-19 vaccine doses they have received.
- It **does not apply to other vaccines** (for example, influenza vaccinations) which can continue to be administered as usual.

Winter Dose for In-Reach Services

Pharmacies are critical partners in the roll-out of the vaccination program, providing comprehensive immunisation coverage for their local populations. **We encourage all participating pharmacies to continue to support their local Residential Aged Care Facilities, Disability Support Services and Vulnerable populations to provide in-reach services** to ensure eligible people receive their winter dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The [CVCP Program Rules](#) provide further details about the administration requirements to conduct in-reach COVID vaccination services.

A reminder:

- Pharmacies must have notified the PPA of their intention to deliver off-site vaccinations prior to commencing service delivery as per the approval process outlined in the CVCP Program Rules.
- Pharmacies are requested to liaise with their local PHN to arrange site visits to residential aged care and residential disability care facilities.
- Payments for the winter dose remain the same as for the administration of other booster doses.
- Information on claiming and payments are outlined in the CVCP Program Rules.

Winter Preparedness Webinar for Pharmacists (Invitation to attend)

You are invited to attend a webinar about Winter Preparedness. **This program is specifically for Community Pharmacists.**

When: **Tuesday 3 May at 3pm to 4pm.**

What: The panel will provide key updates and answer the questions of participants on COVID-19 and influenza preventions and treatments

Where: [Webinar details](#)

- Professor Michael Kidd AM, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health
- Associate Professor Chris Freeman, President of the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia
- Professor Trent Twomey, President of the Pharmacy Guild Australia
- Nicole Jarvis PSM (First Assistant Secretary, Aged Care Outbreak Response Group, Department of Health
- Tracey Lutton, Director, Primary Care Policy and Coordination Branch, Department of Health
- Alex Doyle, Director, Primary Care Implementation Branch, Department of Health
- Dr Nick Simpson, Medical Adviser, Technology Assessment and Access Division, Department of Health.

Novavax Expiry Date Changes (reminder notice)

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:** 4301MF004
- **Labelled Expiry Date:** Apr 22
- **Date of Manufacture:** 22 Nov 2021
- **Revised Expiry Date:** 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.
- Given the short shelf-life of vaccines in a thawed state, **please ensure you only order enough vaccines to meet demand.**

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

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator