

9 June 2022 – ATAGI Update | Help stop the Flu | Stock on Hand Reports | AIR Provider Number

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
- Help stop the flu in 2022
- Stock on Hand Reports
- AIR Provider Numbers.

ATAGI Update

ATAGI recommendations for use of a first booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents aged 12-15 years.

[ATAGI recommends](#) a first booster dose of the Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine may be given to adolescents aged 12-15 years who have completed a primary course of vaccination 3 or more months ago and:

- Are [severely immunocompromised](#)
- Have a disability with significant or complex health needs
- Have complex and/or multiple health conditions that increase the risk of severe COVID-19.

ATAGI does not recommend that a first booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine be given to all adolescents aged 12-15 years at this stage.

Clinical reminder:

- ATAGI recommends a 3-month interval between a recent confirmed SARS CoV-2 infection and a scheduled dose of COVID-19 vaccine
- There is insufficient evidence of severe disease in otherwise healthy adolescents in this age group who have already received two primary doses of a COVID-19

vaccine. ATAGI continues to recommend that all adolescents aged 12-15 years complete a primary vaccine course of 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine, 8 weeks apart

- ATAGI also recommends that **all Australians**, including adolescents aged 12-15 years, **receive a dose of influenza vaccine as soon as practical**
- All COVID-19 vaccines can be [co-administered](#) (given on the same day) with an influenza vaccine.

The Australian Government has accepted this advice and will include the booster for these population groups in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program **from 14 June 2022**. Pharmacies may commence administering the winter doses to the additional groups prior to 14 June if appointments are available.

Help stop the flu in 2022

With winter in full force, we are already starting to see a sharp rise in the number of reported cases of influenza. Coupled with the risk of contracting COVID-19, it is expected that some people, especially older people and those with chronic health conditions, may be at risk of becoming seriously unwell if they are not up to date with their [COVID-19 vaccination](#) and have not had an [influenza vaccination](#).

The [National Immunisation Program \(NIP\)](#) continues to provide a FREE seasonal influenza vaccine to those most at risk of complications from influenza.

Who should get an influenza vaccine?

- An influenza vaccination is recommended for all people aged 6 months and over
- Under the NIP, free influenza vaccines are provided to the following groups who are at higher risk of complications from influenza:
 - Children aged 6 months to less than 5 years
 - All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over
 - People aged 6 months and over with certain medical conditions that increase their chance of severe influenza and its complications
 - Pregnant women (at any stage during pregnancy)
 - People aged 65 years and over
- Many States and Territories are also offering FREE influenza vaccinations until 30 June.

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.

Priority Groups

A **high number** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 and over have not yet been vaccinated.

Please continue to prioritise individuals who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and aged over 50 years for COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster doses.

Importantly for pharmacies:

- Where possible, we would encourage pharmacies to directly reach out to patients not already booked in to support this booking as soon as possible
- Some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people may need additional assistance to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations, such as vaccinations administered off site from the Pharmacy premises. The [CVCP Program Rules](#) provide further information on Off-Site Vaccinations and related requirements
- There are a range of communication resources which may help your pharmacy to support conversations:
 - make your practice [more visually inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
 - to support the [consent process](#), and
 - about common mild [side effects](#).

Stock on hand reports

It is mandatory for pharmacies to complete a weekly **Vaccine Stock Management Report** for their vaccine products. The report captures:

- Details of inventory / stock on-hand
- Number of doses administered to patients during the week
- Any transfers to or from other sites
- Any wastage of doses.

Wastage can be recorded in the week that it occurs, or the week immediately thereafter if the wastage occurs late on a Friday.

- Please ensure Stock Management Reports are accurate, and include all doses administered, delivered, transferred and/or wasted in the week
- Your usage for the week and your current Stock on Hand levels should equate to the amount of vaccines you had on hand at the start of the week
- If there is a discrepancy, please explain why this has occurred.

Sites need to complete a **Vaccine Stock Management Report** in CVAS no later than **9pm Friday every week**. This report will include questions for each of your vaccine products.

If you require assistance completing your Vaccine Stock Management Report, please call the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) on 1800 318 208 or email COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au.

IMPORTANT: CVAS requires you complete your latest Vaccine Stock Management Report before you can place a new order for any vaccine.

AIR Provider Number

It is **mandatory** under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* (AIR Act) to report vaccinations to the AIR.

Patient data collected through AIR must be managed in a manner consistent with the AIR Act and privacy legislation. Every COVID-19 vaccine should be uploaded into AIR **within 24 hours** and must include:

- Brand name
- Dose number
- Batch number
- Date of administration
- Country of administration (if received overseas).



Importantly:

- **Include batch number when reporting in AIR as** international vaccine certificates (vaccine passports) are not valid without it
- **The Taskforce must have the correct AIR Provider Number used by your pharmacy** to register vaccine administrations
- **Please let the PPA know if your AIR Provider Number changes.**

VOC Hours Queens Birthday Public Holiday

VOC operating hours will change during the **Queen's Birthday public holiday**. VOC will be open 9 am to 6 pm AEST between and 11 and 13 June 2022.

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

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator