

29 July 2022- COVID-19 Taskforce Bulletin

Dear Service Provider,

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

- COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Aged 6 Months to 4 Years
- CVCP Program Incentive Payments for Residential Aged Care and Disability Settings
- Requests for Additional Orders
- Variation to Pfizer 12+ Vials
- Moderna Product Name Change
- Vaccine Clinic Finder
- Updated Resources
- Reminders.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Aged 6 Months to 4 Years

- The contribution that community pharmacies have made to the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout has been invaluable. Once again, pharmacies stood up when Australia needed them most.
- Community pharmacy is still a critical component of the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout and the Australian Government is immensely grateful for the hard work, dedication and professionalism shown by community pharmacies in these trying times.
- Some pharmacies may be aware of an Expression of Interest (EOI) for General Practices for a potential paediatric roll-out to 6 month to 4 year olds. Whilst community pharmacy is not a part of the EOI, this is due to the likely scope of the initial rollout to this cohort (e.g. at risk children with immunocompromise, comorbidities and/or disability aged 6 months to 4 years), should this cohort be recommended for inclusion in the COVID-19 vaccination program by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).
- Consideration will be given to future community pharmacy involvement, as the rollout for this cohort continues.

CVCP Program Incentive Payments for Residential Aged Care and Disability Settings

- Ensuring that people with a disability stay up to date with their vaccinations remains a priority for the Australian Government, and the Department appreciates the support pharmacy has provided so far in assisting disability support providers and people with disability to access vaccination services.

- The Taskforce encourages all 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 third and fourth dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Requests for Additional Orders

- The Taskforce would like to encourage all pharmacies who are experiencing shortages of vaccine supply between their reoccurring orders to place an additional order.
- Additional orders can be requested directly through your CVAS Portal.
- **Additional orders can only be requested when you already have an order placed in your regular delivery window.**

How to submit a request for an additional order in CVAS:

1. From the Orders tab, select the 'Request an Additional Order' link underneath the New Order button.
2. Select the vaccine type.
3. Enter the details of the additional order you require, including the number of doses and the Requested Delivery Date.
4. By clicking 'Next' your request will be submitted.
5. You will be able to view your request under the Orders tab, on the Your Orders page.

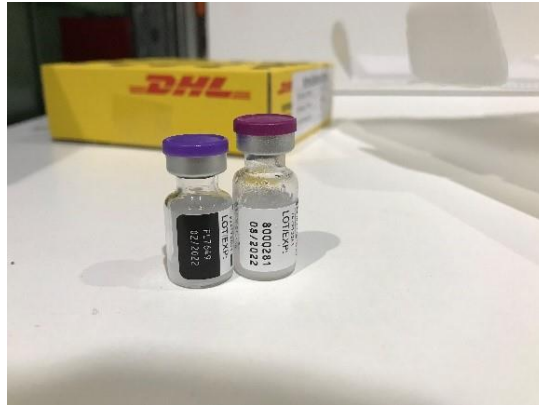
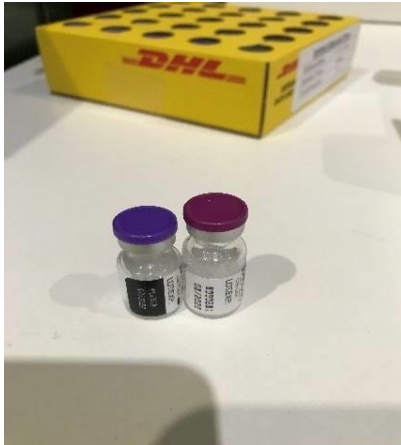
Your request for an additional order will be assessed by the Vaccine Operations Centre.

Please ensure that your Stock Management Reporting is up to date prior to submitting a request. If this is not up to date or you are assessed as holding sufficient stock on hand, your request may not be approved.

You will be notified of the outcome of your request via email.

Variation to Pfizer 12+ Vials

- The vials for Pfizer 12+ have slightly changed with a variation in size and cap shade. The vials are slightly larger and a grape-coloured shade as per the below photos.
- This batch has commenced being thawed and has started being dispatched from Friday 22 July 2022.
- There is no change to the volume of vaccine or doses per vial. The vials are still able to fit in the current packaging.



Moderna Product Name Change

- Please be advised that there will be a change to the name of the existing Moderna product from 'Moderna' to '**Moderna 6 years+ (Red)**' on Friday 29 July 2022. This will be visible within CVAS to all sites currently activated for Moderna.
- No further action is required from pharmacies at this time.

Vaccine Clinic Finder

- Is your listing on the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) up to date? If not, update today using [VCF Connect](#). You can edit your vaccine services and site information, including accessibility details.
- Need help? Email CV19.Products@health.gov.au or call 1800 316 375.

Updated Resources

- The [vaccine comparison poster](#) and [fourth dose eligibility poster](#) have both recently been updated.

Reminders

What is a “thaw use-by date” and why does it matter?

To ensure that as a vaccine provider you administer a safe and effective vaccine:

- Prior to administration, both the batch (manufacturer) expiry date and thaw use-by date should be checked.
- Note that some current vaccine stock may have a batch (manufacturer) expiry date earlier than the thaw use-by date.
- The earliest of these dates should be considered the expiry date.

It is vital that you are aware of the differences between the batch (manufacturer) expiry date and the thaw use-by date, both of which are applicable for mRNA vaccines:

- The batch (manufacturer) expiry date indicates the shelf-life for the vaccine while stored in the freezer or ultra-low temperature storage. Noting that there have been approved shelf-life extensions to some vaccine batches.
- The thaw use-by date is the allowable timeframe for thawed vaccine (refrigerated at 2-8°C).
 - 31 days from the thaw date for Pfizer 12+ years (Purple).
 - 10 weeks (70 days) from the thaw date for Pfizer 5-11 years (Orange).
 - 30 days from the thaw date for Moderna (Red).

Please ensure your pharmacy has clear processes to identify and action these dates to prevent vaccine administration errors.

If you are uncertain of the thaw use-by date or batch (manufacturer) expiry date, please contact the VOC on 1800 318 208 for advice.

Kind regards,
Pharmacy Programs Administrator