**20 October 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:

- Moderna Ancestral (Red Cap) Allocation in CVAS
- Moderna Bivalent 18 years+ Vaccine Administration
- Moderna Bivalent - Stock Management Reporting
- Flood Affected Areas
- CVAS Review of Stock Management Reporting.

## Moderna Ancestral (Red Cap) Allocation in CVAS

- All sites will have their allocation for Moderna ancestral (Red Cap) set to zero in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS) from Saturday 22 October 2022.
- Sites are able to place their last order for Moderna ancestral by midnight Friday 21 October 2022. This is in line with the expected stock depletion occurring in the delivery week commencing 31 October 2022 (current ordering window).

## Moderna Bivalent 18 years+ Vaccine Administration

- With an increasing number of COVID-19 vaccine formulations becoming available, the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) would like to remind all immunisation providers to exercise caution especially when administering Moderna vaccines to avoid potential dosing errors and incorrect vaccine selection.
- Several vaccine administration errors (VAEs) have been reported since the roll-out of the Moderna Bivalent 18 years+ (Blue/Green) vaccine.
- Please be advised that the correct dosage of Moderna Bivalent 18 years + vaccine is **0.50mL rather than 0.25mL.** The vaccine comes in 2.5mL vials, with **5 doses contained within each vial.** Full dosage, storage and handling instructions can be found in the Product Information here. Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) storage and handling advice is available here.
- On 12 September 2022, the ATAGI released a statement on use of the Moderna bivalent Original/Omicron vaccine advising the vaccine can be used as a booster

dose in people aged 18 years or older, according to the current ATAGI recommendations for booster doses.

**Comparison of available Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine formulations:**

| Vaccine Type | Cap Colour | Approved Age group | Dose volume |
|---|---|---|---|
| Moderna Bivalent 18 years+ | Blue cap<br>Green label | Booster dose for 18 years+ | **0.50mL** |
| Moderna 6 months to 5 years | Blue cap<br>Purple label | Primary dose for 6 months to 5 years | **0.25mL** |
| Moderna Ancestral 6 years+* | Red Cap | Primary dose for 6 to 11 years | **0.25ml** |
| | | Primary dose for 12 years+ | **0.50ml** |
| | | Booster dose for 18 years+ | **0.25ml** |

*Please note: this vaccine formulation is being transitioned out of the COVID-19 Vaccine Program however we recognise some sites may still have doses available.

**The following practice points should be considered to reduce the risk of a vaccine administration error occurring:**

- Staff preparing the vaccine should ensure that they are following the correct preparation techniques as detailed in the mandatory Department of Health and Aged Care COVID-19 Vaccination Training Modules, the Spikevax (Moderna) Bivalent Product Information, the Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine Product Information and the ATAGI COVID-19 vaccine doses and administration website.
- Store Moderna Bivalent vaccine vials separately from other vaccines to minimise the risk of inadvertent selection of the incorrect formulation, due to the use of similar coloured vaccine caps.
- Ensure that the correct formulation of Moderna vaccine is selected for the patient being vaccinated.
- Care must be taken while preparing the dose, noting that the **dose of Moderna Bivalent is 0.50mL.**
- Ensure that patient details (e.g., age and vaccination history) and vaccine eligibility is verified before administering a vaccination.
- Check the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) before administering every COVID-19 vaccine.

**Moderna Bivalent - Stock Management Reporting**

- Allocations for Moderna Bivalent 18 years+ (Blue/Green) vaccines are currently **100 doses,** which comes in **20 vials** split between two packs containing 10 vials each (equalling 50 doses per unopened pack). It is important to note that there are **5 doses contained within each vial.**
- Please ensure when completing your **Stock Management Report** that you record the correct number of doses for the vials you have in stock.
- The VOC has been contacting sites where there is a discrepancy between the number of vials and doses recorded in the Stock Management reports.
- If you require assistance completing your Stock Management Report, or amending previous reports, please contact the VOC on 1800 318 208 or via COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au

**Flood Affected Areas**

- The VOC is working with delivery partners to manage vaccine and consumable deliveries in flood affected areas. Sites will be contacted where their deliveries are impacted.
- If your site is affected by the floods and you require additional or replacement orders please place these on CVAS. If you are experiencing difficulties with this process please contact the VOC on 1800 318 208 or COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au.
- Redelivery of affected vaccine and consumable orders will be organised for when it is safe to do so and is suitable for sites.

**CVAS Review of Stock Management Reporting**

- The COVID-19 Vaccine Program is about to undertake a review of reporting by sites in the CVAS.
- The Taskforce are aware that some sites are not completing the weekly Stock Management reporting correctly.
- As a requirement for participating in the COVID-19 Vaccine Program, all sites are required to complete Delivery Acceptance, Stock Management reporting and report all vaccine wastage in CVAS.
    - Delivery Acceptance is due on the day of receiving your vaccine delivery.
    - Stock Management reports are due every week no later than 9pm Friday local time.
    - Wastage under the threshold (less than 10 vials per vaccine type at one time) in one incident should be reported in your weekly Stock Management Report.

    - Major wastage events (10 or more vials per vaccine type at one time) must be reported in a major wastage form on the CVAS within 2 hours of the incident. This report will need to be linked to your next weekly Stock Management Report.
- Wastage should be recorded in the week that it occurs, or the week immediately thereafter if the wastage occurs late on a Friday.
- **Sites should ensure Stock Management Reports are accurate, and include all doses administered, delivered, transferred and/or wasted in the week.**
- Your usage for the week, wastage, transfers and your current stock on hand levels should equate to the number of vaccines you had on hand at the start of the week. If there is a discrepancy, please explain why this has occurred. **If you are unsure, please refer to the guidance document available here.**
- The VOC will begin to reach out to sites where there are significant inconsistencies to be addressed. In the interim, the Taskforce ask that sites review their reports to ensure they have been reporting accurately, especially with regards to wastages.
- If you identify any discrepancies, please contact the VOC and an adjustment can be made to CVAS.

**Tips**

**Expired vaccines** should be recorded as wastage in your weekly Stock Management Report and disposed of in accordance with local requirements for disposal of clinical waste, Schedule 4 medications, the Product Information, and Safety Data Sheets for the COVID-19 vaccines.

**Cold Chain Breach** Any stock believed to be affected by a cold chain breach should be immediately quarantined in 2°C to 8°C refrigeration, and the VOC should be notified. The VOC will provide advice on the use of the stock following receipt of the incident details and relevant temperature data. Vaccines must not be discarded or used until advice is received from the VOC. If the VOC advises that the vaccines should be discarded, they should then be recorded as wastage and appropriately disposed of.

**Transfer of vaccine stock** between sites must be captured within Stock Management Reports by both the transferring and receiving site in the week of the transfer, even if only one vial. If your site has been approved for Commonwealth collection of excess doses for redirection, this should also be recorded as transfer of stock. Please ensure the **National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'** is adhered to when transferring vaccine stock.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator