

23 November 2022 - ATAGI Requirements | Stocking Vaccines | VOC Holiday Period Arrangements | Reminders

Dear Service Provider,

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

- ATAGI Requirements
- Stocking Vaccines
- VOC Holiday Period Arrangements
- Reminders.

ATAGI Requirements

Current ATAGI Recommendations for COVID-19 Booster Doses

- The Vaccine Operation Centre (VOC) has been receiving a number of enquiries regarding the use of **a third booster** of a COVID-19 vaccine
- **The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) does not currently recommend third booster of any COVID-19 vaccine**
- The ATAGI continues to actively review the role of booster doses in the COVID-19 vaccination program
- It is the responsibility of the vaccine provider to remain up to date with [recommended](#) doses of COVID-19 vaccines, especially for people aged 65 years and older and [those at higher risk](#) of severe COVID-19
- This information can be found on the ATAGI [Clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines](#) webpage

Tips to avoid administering more booster doses than recommended

- A detailed conversation is needed between the patient and vaccinator to confirm the patient's eligibility and number of doses required for the individual situation
- Prior to administering every COVID-19 vaccine, vaccine providers should:
 1. Check the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) **before** administering **every** COVID-19 vaccine
 2. Check if it's the correct vaccine for the individual patient cohort
 3. Check if the dose interval is correct
 4. Check if it's for the right age group
- The following resources are available to assist:
 - [ATAGI Recommended COVID-19 Doses and Vaccines poster](#)



- [Don't forget to check poster](#)
- [Vaccine Comparison Poster](#)
- [Children checklist poster](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions.](#)

Stocking Vaccines

Opportunistic Vaccination

- With the holiday period approaching, sites are encouraged to commence planning for the number of vaccines needed from mid-to-late December 2022 to mid-January 2023. When ordering, please consider the additional stock needed to meet demand over the holiday period
- Having **vaccine on hand** will provide you with the opportunity to vaccinate patients when the opportunity arises. Please continue to utilise the opportunity to vaccinate patients, if you do have someone who is eligible and requires a COVID-19 vaccine, **do not delay, open a vial** and vaccinate them
- While we encourage sites to continue to try to minimise wastage, we understand that wastage is an inevitable part of the program moving forward as we move to a more opportunistic model of vaccination.

VOC Holiday Period Arrangements

- The Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) will be closed from **3pm Friday 23 December 2022 to Monday 2 January 2023 inclusive.**
- From **Tuesday 3 January 2023 normal VOC operating hours will resume**
 - Monday - Friday 8:30am - 7pm
 - Saturday 9am - 3pm
 - Sunday CLOSED
- **Call the VOC on 1800 318 208 or email**
COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au

Reminders

Delivery Acceptance

- It is a requirement for participating in the COVID-19 vaccination program that sites complete delivery acceptance, stock management and wastage reporting.



Please be advised that a check has been introduced in CVAS that requires your delivery acceptance reports to be submitted before new orders can be placed

- **Note:** delivery acceptance reports should be completed on the day the delivery has been received at your site. Please do not complete delivery acceptance reports until you have received the order.

Requesting changes to your site's access to vaccine products

- To simplify the process for sites to access new vaccine products, or remove access to existing vaccines, a new COVID-19 Vaccine Administration System (CVAS) functionality will be available from **24 November 2022**, that will allow sites to submit a request directly to the Department of Health and Aged Care. Sites will be able to submit requests to activate, reactivate or deactivate access to one or more vaccine products
- It is important to note that providing access to safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to all eligible Australians is a priority for the Australian Government. Requests to activate access will only be permitted for vaccine products for which pharmacies have approval to administer
- To submit a request, sites can log into the CVAS portal, navigate to the 'Manage Account' tab and click the 'Update Vaccine Access' button and follow the prompts
- To help sites easily identify what vaccine products they currently have access to, when submitting a request there is a 'View Existing Vaccine Access' button. This button can be clicked to open a new tab, showing a summary of all vaccine products the site is currently approved to order
- If a site selects to deactivate access to a vaccine product, it means that the site is withdrawing from ordering the selected vaccine product. The site will not be able to administer any doses, receive stock transfer from other sites, or complete any required reporting including delivery acceptance, stock management and wastage reporting for the withdrawn vaccine product
- When submitting a request to activate or deactivate access to one or more vaccine products, a number of eligibility conditions need to be met by sites. This includes ensuring, when requesting to deactivate vaccine products, that no orders are pending delivery, all stock has been used, and all outstanding reporting has been completed. If a site has not met one or more of the eligibility conditions a message will be displayed advising why a request may not be submitted at that time
- Once a site has completed all the required information the request will be sent to the Department of Health and Aged Care for review. The site's primary contact will be notified of the outcome of the request by email. Sites can check the status of requests at any time through the 'Manage Account' tab under 'My Recent Vaccine Access Requests'.

Kind regards,

Pharmacy Programs Administrator