

Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines – PREFERRED¹

Original/Omicron bivalent vaccines

Original (ancestral) vaccines

	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) Omicron XBB.1.5 10 mcg/0.3 mL suspension for injection single-dose vial	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) Omicron XBB.1.5 30 mcg/0.3 mL suspension for injection multi-dose vial	Moderna (SPIKEVAX) Omicron XBB.1.5 50 mcg/0.5 mL suspension for injection pre-filled syringe	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) Bivalent BA.4-5 15/15 mcg/0.3 mL suspension for injection multi-dose vial	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 3 mcg/0.2 mL concentrated suspension for injection multi-dose vial	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 10 mcg/0.2 mL concentrated suspension for injection multi-dose vial
CVAS naming convention	Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 5-11 years (Light Blue)	Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ (Grey)	Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ (PFS)	Pfizer Bivalent (BA.4-5) 12 years+ (Grey)	Pfizer 6 months-4 years (Maroon)	Pfizer 5-11 years (Orange)
Vaccine type	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)
Approved age	5 to 11 years	12 years and older	12 years and older	12 years and older	6 months to 4 years ¹	5 to 11 years
Dose volume	0.3 mL	0.3 mL	0.5 mL	0.3 mL	0.2 mL	0.2 mL
Doses per vial	1	6	1	6	10	10
Dilution required	No	No	No	No	Yes (2.2 mL)	Yes (1.3 mL)
ULT freezer storage time ²	24 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	24 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	DO NOT STORE below -50°C	24 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	24 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	24 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C
Freezer storage time (unopened) ²	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	9 months (shelf life) at -50°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C
Refrigeration storage time (unopened) ²	70 days (+2°C to +8°C) within the 24-month shelf life	70 days (+2°C to +8°C) within the 24-month shelf life	30 days (+2°C to +8°C) within the 9-month shelf life	70 days (+2°C to +8°C) within the 24-month shelf life	70 days (+2°C to +8°C) within the 24-month shelf life	70 days (+2°C to +8°C) within the 24-month shelf life
Room temperature storage time (unopened) ²	24 hours pre- and post-initial puncture (up to +30°C)	24 hours pre- and post-initial puncture (up to +30°C)	24 hours (up to +25°C)	24 hours pre- and post-initial puncture (up to +30°C)	24 hours pre- and post-dilution (up to +30°C)	24 hours, pre- and post-dilution (up to +30°C)
Storing opened vials ²	NA	6 hours (up to +30°C)	NA	6 hours (up to +30°C)	6 hours (up to +30°C)	6 hours (up to +30°C)
Storing pre-drawn doses ²	1 hour (up to +30°C) or 6 hours (+2°C to +8°C)	1 hour (up to +30°C) or 6 hours (+2°C to +8°C)	NA	1 hour (up to +30°C) or 6 hours (+2°C to +8°C)	1 hour (up to +30°C) or 6 hours (+2°C to +8°C)	1 hour (up to +30°C) or 6 hours (+2°C to +8°C)
Transport limitations	80 hours thawed	80 hours thawed	Nil	80 hours thawed	80 hours thawed	80 hours thawed

Notes:

The COVID-19 primary course advice has been updated in February 2024, please refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#):

- All adults aged 18 years and over are **recommended a single dose primary course**. Children and adolescents aged under 18 years are **not routinely recommended** a primary dose.
- People with severe immunocompromise conditions, who are over 6 months of age are **recommend** 2 primary doses and are **eligible** for a 3rd primary dose based on an individual risk-benefit assessment.
- People aged 6 months and older with severe immunocompromise are **eligible** for a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Dosing intervals can be shortened in specific circumstances for higher risk groups (such as older people or those with medical risk factors for severe illness), or before international travel. The benefits of earlier protection should be weighed against the benefits of the longer dose interval, such as a slightly lower risk of adverse events and a longer duration of protection.

1. All currently available COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to provide benefit to eligible people, however the monovalent Omicron XBB.1.5 vaccines are preferred over other vaccines for use in children aged 5 years or older and adults who are currently recommended primary or additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine according to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#). For ages in which a monovalent XBB.1.5-containing vaccine is not available (children aged 6 months to 4 years), Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 6 months-4 years (maroon cap) should be used.
2. If vaccines are stored or handled outside the conditions listed, complete the [Cold Chain Breach \(CCB\) reporting form](#) and email it to the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au.