



# COVID-19 VACCINATION

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

- **Moderna Supply**
- **Service Finder update**
- **Reminders**
- **Vaccine Operations Centre update**
- **Resources**

## Key Messages

### MODERNA SUPPLY

#### Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 12 years + PFS

As the Commonwealth supply of the Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 12 years + PFS vaccine is close to expiry, you will soon no longer be able to order or administer this vaccine product.

#### Ordering

Activity	Date
Last order window opens	<b>Saturday 18 November 2023</b>
Last order window closes	11:59pm Friday 24 November 2023
Last Requested Delivery Date	Friday 8 December 2023
Last doses expire	Wednesday 20 December 2023

#### Administrations

The ATAGI advises that bivalent mRNA vaccines are the preferred vaccines for primary course and booster doses, regardless of which vaccine was used for the primary course.

When administering primary course and booster vaccine doses make sure to check the latest [ATAGI advice](#) to ensure you are giving the correct vaccine to the correct patients.

#### Alternative Vaccines

The Pfizer Bivalent BA.4-5 12 years + (grey cap) vaccine will continue to be available for people aged 12 years and over. Novavax can also be used for those patients who are unable or prefer not to have mRNA vaccines.

If you would like to commence administering a new vaccine to meet additional demand, you are able to submit a request in CVAS to activate access to one or more vaccine products.

- To submit a request, log into the CVAS portal, navigate to the 'Manage Account' tab and click the 'Update Vaccine Access' button and follow the prompts.
- When submitting a request there is a 'View Existing Vaccine Access' button, to assist you to identify what vaccine products you currently have access to. This button can be clicked to open a new tab, showing a summary of all vaccine products you are currently approved to order.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the VOC on 1800 318 208 or [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au)

## SERVICE FINDER UPDATE

### Making COVID-19 vaccination booking simple

The Department of Health and Aged Care and Healthdirect Australia are working together to make it easier for people to book COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

The health [Service Finder](#) is the best location to find and book a COVID-19 vaccination online. From December 2023, anyone can book COVID-19 vaccination services through the Service Finder without the need to select a vaccine brand, making the process more straightforward and sustainable.

Combining the vaccine choices as a single service simplifies the booking process. It provides a sustainable solution for people to find and reserve a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. The change returns health advice to vaccine providers, helping people get a vaccine that best suits their needs. Additionally, we are reducing the administrative burden on vaccine providers while maintaining a high level of accuracy for booking availability in Service Finder search results.

### WHAT PROVIDERS NEED TO KNOW

- Update your website and marketing to promote the vaccine choices at your service.
- Please work with your booking vendor to make the necessary updates to your bookable appointment offerings.
- No more updating your booking platforms to accommodate new vaccine products. When a new vaccine is available or an existing vaccine is offboarded, Service Finder retains your current real-time appointment availability, clinic information and booking links.
- Ordering vaccine stock will not update or change your services on Service Finder. You can update your vaccine provider listing by using [Provider Connect Australia](#).

The [Service Finder and Online Bookings Factsheet](#) provides further information.

## REMINDERS

### Opportunistic vaccination

Having vaccine on hand provides you with the opportunity to vaccinate patients when the opportunity arises. Please continue to utilise all opportunities to vaccinate eligible 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.

Vaccine wastage is required to be recorded via weekly stock management reports, however, there are no penalties for sites should wastage occur.

## VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE UPDATE

### End of Year Arrangements

The VOC will be closed from 3pm Friday 22 December 2023 to Monday 1 January 2024 inclusive. From Tuesday 2 January 2024 VOC regular operating hours will resume.

This [flyer](#) contains useful information to assist sites with ordering, delivery windows and clinical information during this period.

If you have any questions regarding the shutdown, please call the VOC on 1800 318 208 or email [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au)

## RESOURCES

- [Service Finder and Online Bookings FACT SHEET \(Version 3\)](#)
- [Flyer - VOC End of Year Arrangements and useful information 2023](#)