



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:

Key Messages

COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

Primary care, including General Practices, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS), Community Pharmacy and other providers, are critical partners in the roll-out of the vaccination program by providing access to COVID-19 vaccines for their local populations.

Primary care providers have administered over 43 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine since the beginning of the COVID-19 Vaccine Program. This is a considerable achievement and testament to the invaluable and trusted role primary care plays in their local communities. Thank you to all who continue to work to ensure the Australian community has safe access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Primary care will continue to be the principal provider of COVID-19 vaccines, with targeted support for those unable to engage with traditional primary care or attend primary care settings.

In 2024, COVID-19 vaccines will remain free for everyone in Australia, with the ongoing requirement for the services to be bulk billed/free of co-payment:

- Existing **MBS items** and **COVID-19 Vaccination in Community Pharmacy (CVCP) Program payments** supporting COVID-19 vaccination will remain unchanged until **31 December 2024**.
- The existing **flag fall payments** will continue to support in-reach vaccinations for aged care and disability care residents by primary care vaccination providers.
- The **Vulnerable People Vaccination Program** will continue until **31 December 2024**, to enable PHNs to develop and implement innovative, short term COVID-19 vaccination activities tailored to the needs of priority populations in their regions to ensure that all Australians can access COVID-19 vaccination services.
- The **Vaccine Administration Partners Program (VAPP)** arrangement will continue to operate as a whole-of-government panel available to Commonwealth, state, territory and local governments, private businesses and other enterprises to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations. The VAPP will also be able to address any shortfalls in primary care availability to administer vaccinations for priority populations, including residents in aged care homes and disability accommodation settings and First Nations communities in remote and regional areas.