



Australian Government



# Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

## Pharmacy Bulletin

15 March 2024

*Bulletins provide you with regular updates and guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccine Program.*

### Key Messages

#### VACCINE SUPPLY

##### Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ PFS

On Saturday 9 March 2024, allocations of the Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ PFS vaccine were reduced to 30 doses per fortnight to ensure equitable distribution of the vaccine, and to avoid excess wastage.

**Please note** that additional orders for the Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ PFS vaccine **may not** be approved by the Commonwealth from 15 March 2024.

Please be mindful that Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ PFS has a **thawed-use-by of 30 days** and you should only order what you need to meet demand.

##### Pfizer 5-11 Years (Orange Cap)

The Commonwealth's supply of the Pfizer 5-11 Years (Orange Cap) vaccine expires on **30 April 2024**, and you will soon no longer be able to order this vaccine product. The Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 5-11 years (Light Blue) **is available** to replace this formulation.

##### Eligibility

For further information about patient eligibility for this vaccine, please refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook COVID-19 Chapter](#)

## Ordering

The last ordering window for Pfizer 5-11 Years (**Orange Cap**) vaccine will open on **Saturday 30 March 2024**:

Activity	Date
Last order window opens	Saturday 30 March 2024
Last order window closes	11:59pm Friday 5 April 2024
Last Requested Delivery Date	Friday 19 April 2024
Last doses expire	Tuesday 30 April 2024

Sites receiving Pfizer 5-11 Years (**Orange Cap**) with a Requested Delivery Date of 19 April 2024 are reminded that **you will have a shorter period of time** to use the vaccine until it's expiry on 30 April 2024.

## Available COVID-19 Vaccines

The Pfizer Bivalent BA.4-5 12 years+ (**grey cap**), Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 5-11 years (**blue cap**) and Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ (**grey cap**) vaccines continue to be available in the National COVID-19 Vaccine program for primary care sites to administer.

## Vaccine Access Request

If you would like to commence/recommence administering a new vaccine to meet additional demand, you are able to submit a request in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (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.
- Please ensure you have completed a site declaration form in CVAS for that vaccine type.

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

## Messaging to Patients

Moving further into a post-pandemic environment, we continue simplifying the COVID-19 vaccination program. As an initial step, changes were made to the Service Finder so consumers can now book a COVID-19 vaccination service without selecting a vaccine brand.

Aligned with this, **messaging to patients** requesting a COVID-19 vaccine should be communicated as:

- There are more than sufficient doses of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure everyone in Australia eligible for a dose can receive one.
- All available COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide strong protection against serious disease.
- Similar to when receiving other vaccines; you will receive the vaccine that is available at the time.

## AUSTRALIAN IMMUNISATION REGISTER (AIR) UPDATE

### Legislative changes from 1 March 2024

Under the *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* it is mandatory for all vaccination providers to report the administration of COVID-19, influenza, NIP and Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) vaccines to the AIR.

Further information is provided on the Department of Health and Aged Care's website [here](#) and in the attached COVID-19 Australian Immunisation Register Factsheet.

## VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE UPDATE

### Easter and ANZAC Day arrangements

The VOC **will be closed** for the Easter period from 3:00pm Thursday 28 March 2024 and will re-open 9:00am Tuesday 2 April 2024.

The VOC will also close on Thursday 25 April 2024 for ANZAC Day and will re-open 9:00am Friday 26 April 2022.

#### Easter deliveries:

- **No deliveries** will be made on Friday 29 March 2024 or Monday 1 April 2024.

#### Anzac Day deliveries:

- **No deliveries** will be made on Thursday 25 April 2024.

#### Orders:

- Delivery Acceptances and Stock on Hand reporting will still be due by COB Friday 29 March 2024. It is suggested that sites complete their reporting requirements **prior to 3:00pm** Thursday 28 March 2024.
- Sites will not be able to place further orders for vaccines until reporting requirements are met.

### Reporting a Cold Chain Breach, Vaccine Administration Error or making a Clinical Enquiry

What should I do if there is a Cold Chain Breach during this time?

If you need to report a Cold Chain Breach (CCB) incident while the VOC is closed, please complete the [Cold Chain Breach Reporting Form](#) and email it to [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au). The CCB will be assessed once the VOC reopens on Tuesday 2 April 2024.

Vaccines that have been in a CCB should be clearly labelled with 'DO NOT USE, DO NOT DISCARD', isolated, and stored within appropriate cold chain requirements until the case can be assessed and clinical advice provided.

What do I do if a vaccine administration error occurs during this time?

If you need to report a Vaccine Administration Error (VAE) while the VOC is closed please complete the [Vaccine Administration Error \(VAE\) Reporting Form](#) and email to [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au). The case will be assessed, and clinical advice will be provided when the VOC reopens on Tuesday 2 April 2024.

You may choose to refer to the [ATAGI clinical guidance on COVID-19 vaccine administration errors](#) document for advice on the management of a range of possible VAEs, including when a replacement (repeat) dose is recommended.

If you require urgent information about COVID-19 vaccines, please refer to the [Australian Immunisation Handbook COVID-19 Chapter](#)

## RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Australian Immunisation Register Factsheet](#).
- [Updated Pfizer \(XBB.1.5\) 5-11 years \(Light Blue\)](#).