



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Pharmacy Bulletin

8 March 2024

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

Key Messages

MODERNA SUPPLY

Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ PFS

To ensure equitable distribution of the Moderna (XBB.1.5) 12 years+ PFS vaccine and **avoid excess wastage**, allocations will be reduced from 50 doses to 30 doses per fortnight from the ordering window commencing **Saturday 9 March 2024**.

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

There are more than sufficient doses of XBB vaccines to ensure everyone in Australia eligible for a 2024 COVID-19 vaccine dose can receive it.

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 and the allocations for these vaccines have not changed.

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

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.

VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE UPDATE

The VOC will be **closed** for the Canberra Day Public Holiday on **Monday 11 March 2024**. Normal operating hours will resume at 9am Tuesday 12 March 2024.

Emails to covid19vaccineoperationscentre@health.gov.au will be answered when normal hours resume.

REMINDERS

When administering primary course and further vaccine doses make sure to check the latest clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines. These can be found in the **COVID-19 chapter** of the Australian Immunisation Handbook.

RESOURCES

The following resources have been updated to reflect the 2024 COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Advice:

- [Recommended COVID-19 Vaccine Doses](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Comparison A3 Poster](#)