



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Pharmacy Bulletin

11 December 2024

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

Key Messages

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

JN.1 Vaccines

The COVID-19 JN.1 vaccines were included in the National COVID-19 Vaccine Program from **9 December 2024**. The vaccine comes in a **range of presentations** such as single-dose, multi-dose and pre-filled syringe (PFS), dependent on the vaccine type.

Don't forget to check the vial presentation before administering a vaccine.

- Pfizer (JN.1) 5-11 years **SDV (Light Blue)** – single dose vial
- Pfizer (JN.1) 12 years+ **MDV (Dark Grey)** – 6 dose vials
- Pfizer (JN.1) 12 years+ **(PFS)** – 1 dose syringe

Most importantly, the **JN.1 12 years+ PFS vaccine** is a **new** formulation that is **NEVER FROZEN** and must be **stored in the refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C. DO NOT FREEZE.**

When completing your delivery acceptance for this **PFS** vaccine type in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration System (CVAS), you will only be required to enter a batch number as there is **NO thawed use-by date**. Once you enter the batch number in CVAS the expiry date will auto populate.

The batch number can be found on the carton label and will be as seen in the table below:

Batch Number	Expiry Date
LN5542	15/05/2025
LN5543	13/05/2025

Sites are reminded to ensure they have clear processes to identify and action **JN.1 vaccine expiry dates** to prevent Vaccine Administration Errors.

If you have any questions regarding the JN.1 vaccines, please call the VOC on **1800 318 208** or email **COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au**

Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) - Update to COVID-19 vaccine names

From 16 November 2024, COVID-19 vaccine names no longer display the manufacturer name within the AIR. For example, the 'Pfizer Comirnaty XBB.1.5' vaccine will display as 'Comirnaty XBB.1.5'. This simplifies the display of COVID-19 vaccines and aligns with how other vaccines are recorded in the AIR.

Vaccination providers may notice this change when they are viewing or recording immunisation encounters in their clinical software (integrated with the AIR) or through the AIR site. The AIR vaccine codes for COVID-19 vaccines will remain the same. Further information about AIR vaccine codes and vaccine brand names is available on the Services Australia website [here](#).

VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE UPDATE

End of Year Arrangements

The Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) will adhere to the Department of Health and Aged Care's Christmas shutdown period and **will be closed from 3:00pm Tuesday 24 December 2024 until Wednesday 1 January 2025** inclusive.

From **Thursday 2 January 2024** VOC regular operating hours will resume.

VOC Operating Hours from Thursday 2 January 2025	
Monday – Friday	9am – 5pm AEDT
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	CLOSED

Orders and Deliveries

Ordering for deliveries prior to Christmas closed on Friday 6 December 2024. There will be no scheduled deliveries from 21 December through to 5 January 2025. If you are running low on stock and require additional doses, you can request an Additional Order through CVAS.

Additional Order Requests submitted by 4:30pm AEDT on 13 December 2024 will be considered for delivery on or before **20 December 2024**. **Requests submitted after 4:30pm AEDT on 13 December** will be considered for delivery from **6 January 2025**.

Please note, if you Request an Additional Order **after 2pm AEDT on Tuesday 22 December 2024**, it will be assessed upon return to normal VOC operating hours from Thursday 2 January 2025.

Emails sent to COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au during the shutdown period will be actioned from **Thursday 2 January 2024**.

Deliveries from January 2025:

Orders placed between Saturday 7 December 2024 and Friday 20 December 2024 will be delivered by Requested Delivery Date (RDD) Friday 10 January 2025.

Orders placed between Saturday 21 December 2024 and Friday 3 January 2025 will be delivered by Requested Delivery Date (RDD) Friday 17 January 2025.

The Department will also be amending sites' Earliest Next Order dates to align with the above dates. Orders placed from 4 January 2024 onwards will be delivered in normal delivery timeframes.

For further information about the VOC End of Year arrangements, including reporting Cold Chain Breaches or Vaccine Administration Errors, please refer to the CVAS email sent on Monday 2 December 2024.

RESOURCES

COVID-19 vaccines in Australia – A3 Poster

The latest version of the [COVID-19 vaccines in Australia – A3 poster](#) was published on the Department's website on **14 November 2024**.

This poster is a useful resource for sites and will continue to be updated to reflect any changes to vaccines available for administration in the Program.

Recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses Poster

The latest version of the [Recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses](#) was published on the Department's website on **30 September 2024**. This poster outlines the [COVID-19 vaccine doses recommended](#) for each age and population group.

National Immunisation Program (NIP) and National COVID-19 Vaccination Program (NCVP) updates

Subscribe [here](#) to stay up to date with the latest clinical and program guidance on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) and National COVID-19 Vaccination Program (NCVP) to help you deliver immunisation services to your patients.