



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

8 June 2023

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

Key Messages

COVID-19 VACCINATION TRAINING PROGRAM UPDATE

On 6 June 2023, the COVID-19 Vaccination Training Program (CVTP) was updated to include:

- The new **ATAGI advice**, announced on 30 May 2023, for the preferential use of bivalent mRNA vaccines for primary vaccination of people aged 12 years or older.
- The decommissioning of additional modules for vaccines no longer available in Australia; Moderna (SPIKEVAX) (red cap), Moderna (SPIKEVAX) (blue cap, purple label) and AstraZeneca (VAXZEVRIA) vaccine.

ORDERING UPDATES

Pfizer 12 years+ (Purple) Vaccine

The Commonwealth supply of the Pfizer 12 years+ (Purple) vaccine is close to depletion and expiry – **last orders need to be placed this week.**

Ordering

Activity	Date
Last order window opened	Saturday 3 June 2023
Last order window closes	11:59pm Friday 9 June 2023
Last Requested Delivery Date	Friday 23 June 2023*
Vaccine expiry	Friday 30 June 2023

* **Note:** this stock will only have 7 days shelf life

USE OF BIVALENT COVID-19 VACCINES AS A PRIMARY COURSE

Updated Resources

National COVID-19 Vaccination Program resources have now been updated to reflect the recent advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) on the [preferential use of a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine for primary course vaccination for people aged 12 years and older](#), including the ATAGI [Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 vaccine providers](#) as well as associated resources and the Health Direct Service Finder.

ATAGI advises that for people aged 12 and older, a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is now preferred over original (ancestral) vaccines for primary course vaccination:

- People aged 12-17 years are recommended to receive a BA.4-5-containing bivalent vaccine for both the primary course and booster doses.
- People aged 18 years and older are recommended to receive either a BA.1-containing bivalent vaccine or a BA.4-5-containing bivalent vaccine for both the primary course and booster doses.
- People aged 12 and older who have commenced their primary course with an original (ancestral) vaccine are recommended to complete the course with a bivalent vaccine.

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION ERRORS

Incorrect Vaccines Administered

Winter is now upon us, and COVID-19 vaccine demand is increasing.

This extra demand has resulted in the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) seeing an increase in the number of COVID-19 vaccine administration errors (VAEs) being reported, where COVID-19 vaccines are being inadvertently given instead of influenza or other routine vaccines.

Case Study 1:

A 4-year-old child came in for their routine childhood vaccinations. The NIP vaccines were stored next to the COVID-19 vaccines in the vaccine fridge. An *unlabelled* pre-prepared syringe of Moderna Bivalent (BA.1) 18 years+ (blue/green) vaccine was inadvertently selected and administered.

Case Study 2:

A father and his 10-year-old child came in together to receive their influenza vaccines, with the parent also booked in to receive their COVID-19 vaccine booster dose. The vaccine provider incorrectly administered the child with the Pfizer Bivalent (BA.4-5) 12 years+ (grey) vaccine which they had ready to give to the parent.

Case Study 3:

An 80-year-old came in for an influenza vaccination but was inadvertently given a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose, after receiving their 2023 Booster Dose 3 weeks prior.

These types of VAEs may be avoided by:

- Ensuring sufficient staffing to manage demand.
- Checking the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) before vaccinating every individual.
- Not dealing with multiple vaccine patients at once, to reduce confusion between different vaccines. Having set clinic days for specific vaccine types can also reduce the risk of incorrect vaccines being administered.
- Storing different vaccine formulations in separate locations within the vaccine refrigerator.
- Labelling all pre-drawn syringes from multidose vials with the vaccine formulation and relevant expiry dates, such as the day and time the vaccine was drawn up into the syringe. Alternatively, storage solutions such as using separate, clearly labelled containers for different formulations of pre-drawn syringes, may be used.
- Verbally confirm the expected vaccine with the patient or parent/guardian using an open question. For example, **“Please confirm which vaccine you expect to receive today?”**.
- Follow the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\) clinical guidance](#), the [Australian Immunisation Handbook](#), and other best practice guidelines and ensure your vaccination knowledge is up to date.
- Regularly review your vaccination procedures to prevent vaccination fatigue.

VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE UPDATE

King’s Birthday Holiday Arrangements

The VOC will close on Monday 12 June 2023 for King’s Birthday Holiday and re-open 9:00am Tuesday 13 June 2023.

King’s Birthday Holiday deliveries:

- No deliveries will be made on Monday 12 June 2023.

You will still be able to email the VOC at covid19vaccineoperationscentre@health.gov.au 24 hours a day and any enquiries will be actioned when the VOC re-opens on Tuesday 13 June 2023.