



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

29 April 2022

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

Key Messages

ATAGI UPDATE

Extended mRNA dose interval

[ATAGI recommends](#) an **8-week interval** between dose one and dose two for Pfizer and Moderna for people aged 5 years and older, particularly for males aged 12 to 39 years. The recommended dose interval for the 2 doses of the primary course of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines was previously:

- 3 to 6 weeks for Comirnaty (Pfizer)
- 4 to 6 weeks for Spikevax (Moderna).

The extended dose interval of 8 weeks has been shown to improve the immune response to vaccination and therefore may improve effectiveness. A longer dose interval may also reduce the risk of myocarditis and pericarditis.

The dose interval can be reduced (to a minimum of 3 weeks for Pfizer or 4 weeks for Moderna) for people at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (including older adults and people with underlying medical conditions), in an outbreak setting, or prior to international travel.

COVID-19 vaccination post infection (all doses)

ATAGI have updated their advice on when people who have had COVID-19 should receive a COVID-19 vaccine dose and it is now [recommended](#) that all people should wait for **3 months** after a confirmed COVID-19 infection before they receive their next COVID-19 vaccine dose. The next scheduled dose should then be given as soon as possible after this period.

This change in recommendation applies to all people who are recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccination (i.e., from 5 years and above), regardless of how many COVID-19 vaccine doses they have received. It does not apply to other vaccines (for example, influenza vaccinations) which can continue to be administered as usual.

WINTER DOSE FUNDING

Winter Dose Funding for In-Reach Services

General practices are critical partners in the roll-out of the vaccination program, providing comprehensive immunisation coverage for their local populations. We encourage all practices to continue to support their local Residential Aged Care Facilities, Disability Support Services and Vulnerable populations to provide in-reach services to ensure eligible people received their winter dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Your PHN can assist in any facilitation or coordination as needed.

Payments for the winter dose remain the same as for the administration of other booster doses. The attached [Factsheet](#) summarises the available payments.

PRACTICE INCENTIVES PROGRAM (PIP) IN-REACH REPORTING

Reporting arrangements for in-reach clinics

Primary care providers are still required to fill in a **Clinic Summary Report** and have it signed by a representative of the facility when undertaking in-reach clinics. These reports allow the Taskforce to verify the claims for the PIP in-reach payments.

You should complete the Clinic Summary Report and scan/email it to your PHN. If necessary, the Clinic Summary Report can be completed retrospectively for clinics, i.e. if you forgot to fill out a form on the day of the in-reach clinic.

The PHN use these Clinic Summary Reports to report to the Department and they will be used to assist in confirming PIP in-reach payments which will be processed in July/August 2022 for the period November 2021 to June 2022.

The attached [Factsheet](#) and the [Clinic Summary Report](#) provide further explanation on the requirements.

REMINDERS

Novavax Expiry Date Changes

The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) approved a shelf-life of 6 months from the date of manufacture of **NUVAXOVID (Novavax)**, provided that approved storage conditions between 2°C to 8°C have been maintained.

Cartons and vials of Nuvaxovid were labelled with an expiry in the month/year format but continue to meet the TGA approved shelf life up to 6 months after the date of manufacture. This is reflected in the revised expiry date when expressed as a day/month/year.

The changed expiry date applies to the following batch number that has been distributed:

Batch Number	Labelled Expiry Date	Date of Manufacture	Revised Expiry Date
4301MF004	Apr 22	22 Nov 2021	22 May 2022

This **revised** expiry date applies to **all** stock on site provided that approved storage conditions have been maintained.

Please update the expiry date on any vials you have on site to reflect the revised expiry date.

Thawed Vaccine Shelf Life

Given the short shelf-life of vaccines in a thawed state, please ensure you only order enough vaccines to meet demand.