



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

18 May 2023

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

Key Messages

ORDERING UPDATES

Moderna Bivalent BA.1 Vaccine

The Commonwealth supply of the Moderna Bivalent BA.1 vaccine is close to depletion and expiry; you will soon no longer be able to order or administer this vaccine product.

Ordering

Activity	Date
Last order window opened	Saturday 13 May 2023
Last order window closes	11:59pm Friday 19 May 2023
Last Requested Delivery Date	Friday 2 June 2023

The ATAGI advises that bivalent mRNA vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) are the preferred vaccines for booster doses, regardless of which vaccine was used for the primary course.

The ATAGI recommends the 2023 booster dose be given 6 months after the last immunising event. Please refer to the [ATAGI 2023 booster advice](#) and the [COVID-19 Vaccines in Australia](#) poster for more information.

Alternative Vaccines

The Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 PFS, Pfizer Bivalent BA.1 (grey cap) and Pfizer Bivalent BA.4-5 (grey cap) vaccines will continue to be available as a booster dose for this cohort. Novavax can be used as a booster for those patients who are unable or prefer not to have mRNA vaccines.

Additional Orders

If you require additional doses of **Moderna Bivalent BA.4-5 PFS** you are able to place additional orders in CVAS.

A link will be visible on the Orders tab stating '*If you are running low on stock and require additional doses, you can Request an Additional Order*'. By clicking the '*Request an Additional Order*' link you can enter your requested vaccine product, number of doses and whether you require paired consumables to match the requested order.

There is no limit to the number of doses that can be ordered in an additional order or the number of additional orders that can be placed, however, all additional orders will be assessed by the Department.

If you have any problems placing the order you can contact the VOC.

Please note, if you have not yet placed an order for the requested vaccine product in your regular order cycle, you will be redirected instead to place an order through the New Order button in the Orders tab.

IN-REACH

Co-administration of COVID-19 and influenza vaccines

When administering vaccinations in residential aged care, please consider that COVID-19 and influenza vaccines can be administered on the same day. It is important that residents have every opportunity to receive a COVID-19 2023 booster dose as we head into winter.

We encourage you to continue providing in-reach COVID-19 vaccinations to aged care residents, even when there is a small number of residents who are eligible. There is no minimum number of patients that must be vaccinated for the MBS flag-fall item 90005 to be claimed.

COVID-19 outbreaks do not preclude vaccinations from occurring for unaffected eligible residents, provided that infection prevention and control measures are followed, and appropriate personal protective equipment is used.

Thank you for your assistance with providing vaccinations for our most vulnerable. Please continue to support residential aged care homes in your area and reach out to your PHN if you can assist to vaccinate this cohort of people most at risk from COVID-19.

VACCINE OPERATIONS CENTRE UPDATE

Reconciliation Day Arrangements

The VOC will close on Monday 29 May 2023 for Reconciliation Day and re-open 9:00am Tuesday 30 May 2023.

Reconciliation Day deliveries:

- No deliveries will be made on Monday 29 May 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 30 May 2023.

REMINDERS

Opportunistic vaccination

Please continue to utilise the opportunity to vaccinate patients, if you do have someone who is eligible and requires a COVID-19 vaccine, do not delay, open a vial and vaccinate them.

While we encourage sites to continue to try to minimise wastage, we understand that wastage is an inevitable part of the program moving forward as we move to a more opportunistic model of vaccination. There are **no** financial implications associated with COVID-19 vaccine wastage.

Novavax

The Department was advised of a potential issue with a batch of COVID-19 Novavax vaccine (**Batch No. 4302MF031**).

As a conservative approach, participating Sites who had deliveries of this batch received messages via CVAS on 6 April and 11 April asking them not to administer this batch of the vaccine and dispose of any unused vaccine from this batch.

As outlined in the Provider Bulletin of 2 May 2023, there are no patient safety concerns associated with the vaccine, however this batch should **not be used**.

AIR data for the recalled Novavax batch 4302MF031 indicates that this batch may still be being administered by some sites.

The Department is aware that some Practice Management Software stores and/or autofill's previously entered information which can lead to data entry errors.

Sites should:

- Check your administration records and update any AIR records if there has been a reporting error.
- Check your vaccine fridge for any Novavax vaccines with **Batch No. 4302MF031** and dispose of any vaccines with this batch number as per existing state and territory guidelines for the disposal of clinical waste and Schedule 4 medication.
- Please include any disposed vaccines in your weekly Stock Management Report as wastage, using 'wastage upon receipt' as the reason.

The Department will be reaching out to these sites as a priority.