



Australian Government



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

10 October 2024

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

Key Messages

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

COVID-19 Vaccine Consumables

The Commonwealth's current consumable supply of 0.9% Sodium Chloride 10mL Ampoules will expire on **31 October 2024**. The 0.9% Sodium Chloride 10mL Ampoules are used for the dilution of the **Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 6 months-4 years (Maroon)** vaccine. The last order window for this stock will close on **11 October 2024**.

In line with harmonising access to COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccine programs, such as the National Immunisation Program, the Commonwealth **will no longer supply** 0.9% Sodium Chloride 10mL Ampoules under the COVID-19 vaccination program after **11 October 2024**.

Primary Care sites will be required to source 0.9% Sodium Chloride 10mL Ampoules separately to be able to dilute the Pfizer (XBB.1.5) 6 month- 4 years (Maroon) vaccine.

Any Sodium Chloride 0.9% Solution used, should be Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG) listed. **No other dilutant** including Bacteriostatic 0.9% Sodium Chloride should be used.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the Vaccine Operations Centre on 1800 318 208.

Reminder of COVID-19 Vaccine Stock Management

It is important that all participating sites manage your vaccine stock. While we encourage sites to reduce any wastage of COVID-19 Vaccines, we understand that this is not always possible, due to multi-dose vials and decreased demand.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS) has existing vaccine wastage and stock control measures in place to support your site in mitigating wastage and to ensure the Commonwealth's vaccine stock is being managed appropriately.

From 1 October 2024, **it is now mandatory to provide a reason** for requiring the requested doses (e.g. preparing for a target clinic) if you receive a warning for risk of wastage and/or holding excessive stock.

This warning will not affect your site placing the order, however the Department may contact you to discuss your order and options to minimise wastage and/or holding excess vaccine stock.

Participating sites can manage vaccine stock by:

- **skipping orders** and only ordering when you need to (**you do not need to order every fortnight**); and/or
- **ordering less** than your maximum allocation, and/or
- **transferring excess stock** in line with the COVID-19 Vaccine Transfer Policy.

If you require any assistance in managing your stock in CVAS, please do not hesitate to contact the Vaccine Operations Centre on 1800 318 208.

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 **30 September 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.

The updates provide the latest information to assist providers administer vaccines on the NIP and NCVP, including:

- changes to the NIP schedule
- updates to the NCVP
- clinical advice, including ATAGI clinical statements
- program communication
- immunisation events/activities
- Australian Immunisation Register information

Our updates are for health professionals who have a role in promoting and administering NIP funded and NCVP vaccines, including:

- general practitioners
- nurses
- midwives
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and workers
- specialists
- pharmacists
- practice managers and administrators.