



Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

Provider Bulletin

23 August 2021

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

Key Messages

THANK YOU

The National COVID Vaccine Taskforce (Taskforce) would like to thank our healthcare workers and practitioners for going above and beyond to help keep our Australian community safe. Many of you have been supporting your local communities through a very difficult time and continue to work hard to protect people in Australia from COVID-19.

ELIGIBILITY

NDIS children aged 12 to 15

ATAGI has updated their advice on 12-15 year old eligibility which the Commonwealth has accepted.

The following groups of children aged 12–15 years should be prioritised for vaccination using the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine:

- *those on the [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) and/or living with significant disability requiring frequent assistance with activities of daily living: Including down syndrome, muscular dystrophy, traumatic brain and spinal cord injury, severe intellectual disability;*
- those with specified medical conditions (severe asthma, diabetes, obesity, cardiac circulatory congenital anomalies, epilepsy and those who are immunocompromised);
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12-15; and
- all children aged 12 to 15 in remote communities, as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs.

Individuals aged 16 to 39 years

On 19 August 2021, the [Prime Minister](#) announced that Cabinet agreed that from 30 August 2021, individuals aged between 16 and 39 years will be eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. To support practices to plan, people in this age group are being encouraged to hold off making bookings, including through our messaging on our social media channels and on the website.

The Taskforce is working to update the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker (Eligibility Checker) in line with the opening of eligibility (including in translations). On 30 August 2021, it is anticipated that the changes to allow those aged between 16 to 39 years to view vaccination sites that administer the recommended vaccine type for them will go live.

State and territory eligibility

To simplify the transition of national eligibility to include those aged 16 to 39, practices that have capacity and available stock may book patients based on state and territory eligibility criteria. Phase 1 populations (such as aged and disability care staff, Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people aged 12 and over, health care workers and those with an underlying health condition) should still be prioritised.

For example, if you are in QLD, you may book and vaccinate school or early childhood workers (based on the jurisdictional eligibility criteria) – this will not be reflected on the eligibility checker.

PFIZER

All general practices who have expressed an interest in administering the Pfizer vaccine have received notification of their commencement date and Pfizer allocation. If you have expressed your interest and have not received a letter, please contact your Primary Health Network (PHN).

Practices will be transitioned to Pfizer over a four-week period in September/October.

- All practices have received the same dose allocation to ensure that all practices can come on quickly.
- Start dates and allocation are based on available vaccine supply and cannot be modified at this stage.

The Taskforce will continue to map supply and demand to identify any opportunities to bring forward the commencement of practices or increase Pfizer dose allocation.

The Taskforce will undertake a specific review of dose allocation in October. If you would like an increase to your dose allocation, please let us know through your PHN. PHNs will collate this information to inform our modelling and consideration.

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker

The Eligibility Checker will be progressively updated and refined over time. Your patience whilst we make changes as quickly as possible is appreciated. The Eligibility Checker is a tool to assist with booking vaccinations, not providing clinical advice, so please continue to administer vaccines in accordance with ATAGI and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) guidelines.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Finder

Integrating your booking system with the Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF) provides faster access to appointments by consumers, enabling them to view availability in real time rather than having to click through to individual clinic websites or having to call the clinic. This reduces pressure on phone lines and staff needed to respond to calls.

If you already have an online booking system in place, please continue to use the one you have. To integrate your current booking system with the VCF and ensure you are only surfacing the appointments you would like to make available, please contact your booking system provider directly. The Commonwealth is unable to make changes with your booking system provider on your behalf.

Commonwealth Booking System

If you don't have an online booking system, you can use the Commonwealth Booking Platform (CBP). The CBP is a COVID-19 vaccination booking system that is specifically **designed for COVID-19 vaccines**. It complies with government requirements around accessibility, privacy and security, and is available at zero cost to your practice.

If you do not have an existing booking system and would like more information about the CBP, please visit the CBP [website](#) or email Digital.CV19@health.gov.au.

Please note: the CBP is time-limited for the vaccine rollout and can only be used by clinics if you don't already have an online booking service provider.

TGA UPDATES

Name change of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca to VAXZEVRIA

On 19 August 2021, the [TGA](#) approved AstraZeneca's submission to change the name of its COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca to VAXZEVRIA.

The name is now consistent with that used overseas, including in the European Union and Canada.

This is expected to alleviate confusion and further clarify that the vaccine produced by CSL and Seqirus in Melbourne is the same as that produced internationally. This name change will also help facilitate international recognition for Australians who have been vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The Taskforce will now refer to the AstraZeneca vaccine as **AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)**.

Communication With Taskforce Staff

The Taskforce understands that you and your teams are working under an incredible amount of pressure. We are grateful for all the work you are doing to support your community, especially during this difficult time.

However, please be patient with our teams, especially those in the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) and our delivery partners, as we work to roll-out vaccines to over 8,000 points of presence across the country. We are all doing our best and will endeavour to trouble shoot any issues as they arise as soon as possible. **Poor or abusive behaviour towards our staff will not be tolerated.** Repeated or continued harassment or poor behaviour may result in a review of the participation of the practice in the COVID 19 Vaccine Program.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and cooperation.

CVAS

In-reach Aged Care Clinic reporting now live

You can now report in-reach COVID-19 vaccination clinics conducted in residential aged or disability care facilities. Clinics conducted between 29 April 2021 to 31 October 2021 should be reported through the '**In reach Vaccination Reporting**' tab on CVAS. This report will be used to facilitate your Practice Incentive Payment, so please ensure this reporting is completed for each in-reach clinic to an aged or disability care facility, and is accurate.

Vaccine Merchandise

Vaccine providers will soon receive a package of COVID-19 vaccine merchandise. This will include posters, band-aids and stickers in 'Arm Yourself' branding.

COMMUNICATIONS

Free Interpreting Service

The Free Interpreting Service (FIS) aims to provide equitable access to key services for people with limited or no English language proficiency.

Service providers are encouraged to register and use the [Free Interpreting Service](#) and display the [National Interpreter Symbol](#) to provide a simple way of indicating where people can ask for an interpreter when using your service.

[Materials and Guidelines](#) available to help vaccine providers promote FIS, include:

- Language Services Guidelines
- Free Interpreting Service promo flyer for Medical Practitioners
- 3 logos for the following groups – Medical Practitioners, Pharmacies, non- English speakers

There are also more [promotional materials on the website](#).

Please note **1300 131 450 is for medical practitioners/pharmacists** and **131 450 is for the public**.