



## Vaccination administration, have you got it RIGHT?

COVID+19  
RESOURCE

With progression of the vaccination rollout, many pharmacies are now offering all three COVID-19 vaccine brands: Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) for adults, and Spikevax (Moderna) and Comirnaty (Pfizer) for both adults and children (Pfizer). (See tables for approved age ranges and dosing regimens)

Given the varying minimum age restrictions, intervals between vaccines, patient expectations, and boosters, pharmacists and pharmacy owners must ensure suitable policies and procedures are in place to avoid incidents.

All immunising pharmacists must have completed all applicable modules and remain up-to-date with changes made to the mandatory Australian Government COVID-19 Vaccines, as well as recommendations and guidance from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

Pharmacy owners should also make sure there are sufficient resources available to allow vaccinators time to provide this essential service professionally and safely.

### RIGHT PATIENT

Check the AIR PRIOR to  
vaccinating

#### 1. Is the patient in front of you the patient you are expecting to vaccinate?

- Patient name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- Medicare Number (if available)
- Photo ID recommended to prevent identity fraud

### RIGHT VACCINE AND DILUENT (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Check the AIR PRIOR to  
vaccinating

#### 1. Is the patient expecting Spikevax, Vaxzevria or Comirnaty?

#### 2. Is the vaccine the best choice for this patient? That is, is it safe and appropriate for this patient?

#### 3. Have you confirmed administration of any prior COVID-19 vaccines to prevent error and manage any people seeking unapproved additional doses?

#### 4. Separate all handling, preparation, storage and management of different brands.

#### 5. If possible, separate vaccination sessions to minimise use of different brands at the same time.

#### 6. Consider using a colour coding system and clear labelling to differentiate between brands – different vials have different lid colours.

#### 7. Has the vaccine been prepared correctly?

- If the vaccine requires reconstitution, has it been reconstituted correctly and with the correct diluent? Consider recording the volume of the dose on the syringe.

#### 8. Check that the vaccine has not expired:

- Does the vial have first opening time recorded on it? Confirm it has not passed its expiry.
- Is the vial in date according to the manufacturer's expiry date?
- Is the vial in date according to the thawed expiry date (where applicable)?
- Is the individual syringe in date based on time of drawing up?

### RIGHT AGE

Check the AIR PRIOR to vaccinating

- Check the patient's date of birth by confirming with photo ID or by asking a suitable carer**
- Ask the person their age in years**

#### As of 15/12/2021:

- Vaxzevria is approved for patients 18 years and over only
- Spikevax is approved for patients 12 years and over only
- Comirnaty Purple is approved for patients 12 years and over only
- Comirnaty Orange is approved for patients 5-11 years of age only

### RIGHT INTERVAL





Check the AIR PRIOR to vaccinating

- Check the AIR to ensure the correct interval has elapsed between doses**
  - That the interval between primary doses is appropriate for the specific vaccine
  - That the interval between second doses and third doses for immunocompromised people is appropriate
  - That the interval between the last dose of the primary course and the booster is in line with ATAGI guidance
- Print out the table on page 3 and display in your vaccine preparation area**

### RIGHT DOSE

- Check the vaccine before administering - is it the brand that the patient is expecting?**
- If you are vaccinating a whole family – verify names and dates of birth of each member of the family before administering**
  - Bring only one patient's vaccines to the vaccination area at a time.
- Perform a visual inspection of the contents of the syringe, does it look like it normally does? Is the volume correct?**
- Administer the dose as per guidelines**

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<b>Comirnaty</b> 30mcg/0.3mL (12 years and over) (Pfizer)	<b>Comirnaty</b> 10mcg/0.2mL (children 5-11 years) (Pfizer) (from 10 January 2022)	<b>Spikevax 0.2mg/mL</b> (Moderna)	<b>Vaxzevria</b> 5x10 <sup>10</sup> vp/0.5mL (AstraZeneca)
			

PRIMARY COURSE				
<b>Vaccine type</b>	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	Viral vector
<b>Primary course dose volume</b>	0.3mL (30mcg)	0.2mL (10mcg)	0.5mL (100mcg)	0.5mL (5x10 <sup>10</sup> viral particles)
<b>Primary doses per vial</b>	6 (after dilution)	10 (after dilution)	10	10
<b>Dilution required</b>	Yes (1.8mL of saline for injection)	Yes (1.3mL of saline for injection)	No	No
<b>Recommended dose interval</b>	21 days	8 weeks	28 days	12 weeks
<b>Approved dose interval when clinically indicated</b>	3 to 6 weeks	3 to 8 weeks	4 to 6 weeks	4 to 12 weeks
<b>Approved age</b>	12 years and older	5 -11 years (for use from 10 January 2022)	12 years and older	18 years and older
THIRD DOSE - IMMUNOCOMPROMISED				
<b>Vaccine preference</b>	Preferred (2-6 months after second dose)	Not approved	Preferred (2-6 months after second dose)	Not preferred <sup>1</sup>
BOOSTER				
<b>Vaccine preference</b>	Preferred		Preferred	Not preferred <sup>1</sup>
<b>Approved age</b>	18 years and older		18 years and older	
<b>Immunocompromised</b>	Not approved		Not approved	
<b>Booster dose volume</b>	0.3mL (30mcg)		0.25mL (50mcg)	
<b>Booster doses per vial</b>	6 (after dilution)		20	
VACCINE STORAGE				
<b>Storage time and temperature for unopened vials</b>	2°C to 8°C (31 days) -25°C to -15°C (2 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (9 months)	2°C to 8°C (10 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (6 months)	2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (7 months)	2°C to 8°C (6 months)
<b>Storage time and temperature for open vials</b>	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C) 48 hours (2°C to 8°C)

<sup>1</sup>AstraZeneca may be given as a third dose for immunocompromised people in some circumstances. Refer to ATAGI advice.

**Disclaimer:** This information sheet is intended as a tool to support pharmacists in the delivery of a COVID vaccination service. Every effort has been made to ensure that the content of this information sheet is correct at the date of publication. This information sheet does not replace official government advice or guidelines. Pharmacists should stay up to date with the latest information on COVID vaccine to ensure that this information is appropriate for their practice, patients, and clients.