







COVID-19 Vaccines in Australia

The table below provides key differences between each COVID-19 vaccine approved for use in Australia as per the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Guidelines. Please refer to the [Department of Health and Aged Care website](#) for the most up to date advice.

| | PRIMARY COURSE | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| | Comirnaty (Pfizer) 5 to 11 years ¹ Primary Course | Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older ¹ Primary Course | Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (6-11 years) ² | Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (12 years and older) ² | Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Primary Course | Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) Primary Course |
| Vaccine type | mRNA (nucleic acid) | mRNA (nucleic acid) | mRNA (nucleic acid) | mRNA (nucleic acid) | Protein-based | Viral vector |
| Approved age | 5 to 11 years ⁵ | 12 years and older | 6 to 11 years ⁴ | 12 years and older | 18 years and older | 18 years and older |
| Cap colour |  Orange |  Purple |  Red |  Red |  Blue |  Red |
| Dose volume | 0.2mL | 0.3mL | 0.25mL | 0.5mL | 0.5mL | 0.5mL |
| Doses per vial | 10 | 6 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 |
| Dilution required | Yes (1.3mL) | Yes (1.8mL) | No | No | No | No |
| Recommended dose interval | 8 weeks | 8 weeks | 8 weeks | 8 weeks | 3 weeks | 12 weeks |
| Approved minimum primary course dose interval⁷ | 3 weeks | 3 weeks | 4 weeks | 4 weeks | 3 weeks | 4 weeks |
| Third dose (as part of primary course for individuals who are severely immunocompromised)³ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes, but not preferred ⁹ | Yes, but not preferred ⁶ |
| Storage temperature for unopened vials | 8°C to 30°C (Cumulative 24 hours, pre-and post-dilution) 2°C to 8°C (10 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (12 months) | 8°C to 30°C (2 hours) 2°C to 8°C (31 days) -25°C to -15°C (2 weeks) -90°C to -60°C (12 months) | 8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -50°C to -15°C (9 months) | 8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -50°C to -15°C (9 months) | 8°C to 25°C (12 hours) 2°C to 8°C (9 months) | 2°C to 8°C (6 months) |
| ATAGI recommendations for storing opened vials | 12 hours (up to 30°C) | 6 hours (up to 30°C) | 6 hours (up to 25°C) | 6 hours (up to 25°C) | 6 hours (up to 25°C) | 6 hours (up to 30°C) or 48 hours (at 2°C to 8°C) |
| ATAGI Recommendations for pre-drawn doses | 1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C) | 1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C) | 1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C) | 1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C) | Storing pre-drawn doses of this vaccine in syringes is not preferred | 1 hour (up to 30°C) 6 hours (2°C to 8°C) |
| Transport limitations | 80 hours thawed | 12 hours thawed | 12 hours thawed | 12 hours thawed | Nil | Nil |
| Light exposure | During storage, minimise exposure to room light. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light. Thawed vials can be handled in light conditions. | During storage, minimise exposure to room light. Avoid exposure to direct sunlight and ultraviolet light. | Store in the original carton to protect from light. Thawed vials and filled syringes can be handled in room light conditions. | Store in the original carton to protect from light. Thawed vials and filled syringes can be handled in room light conditions. | Keep the vials in the outer carton in order to protect from light. | Store in carton to protect the vaccine from light. |
| Handling vials | Do not shake the vial | Do not shake the vial | Do not shake the vial | Do not shake the vial | Do not shake the vial | Do not shake the vial |

Notes





- 1 The Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older vaccine should not be administered to children aged under 12 years in any form.
- 2 Spikevax (Moderna) is the same product for 6-11 years, and 12 years and older.
- 3 ATAGI recommends that all severely immunocompromised individuals aged 5 years and over receive a 3rd primary dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 4 Children who turn 12 years of age after their first dose may receive the adolescent/adult dosage (0.5mL) of the Moderna vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course.
- 5 Children who turn 12 years of age after their first dose may receive the adolescent/adult dosage (0.3mL) of the Pfizer Comirnaty 12 years and older vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course.
- 6 Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) can be used for the third dose for individuals who have received Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) for their first two doses if there are no contraindications or precautions for use, or if a significant adverse reaction has occurred after a previous mRNA vaccine dose which contraindicates further doses of mRNA vaccine (e.g. anaphylaxis, myocarditis).
- 7 Recommended interval for administration of a second COVID-19 vaccine dose using any alternative brand is 4 to 12 weeks after the first dose, regardless of first dose brand. Please note, all people are recommended to defer COVID-19 vaccination for 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection, to optimise protection for that person as per ATAGI advice here.
- 8 The dosing interval can be shortened to a minimum of 3 weeks for Pfizer or 4 weeks for Moderna. This shorter interval can be used in specific circumstances for higher risk groups (such as older people or those with medical risk factors for severe illness), or before international travel.
- 9 There is limited data on the Immunogenicity or efficacy of Novavax in people with immunocompromise

If the vaccines are stored or handled outside the conditions listed in this Poster, please contact the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) on 1800 318 208 or COVID-19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au for advice and for the vaccines to be assessed.

While waiting for VOC advice, quarantine the vaccines at 2-8 °C and label them “Do not use, do not discard”.

COVID-19 Vaccines in Australia

The table below provides key differences between each COVID-19 vaccine [booster](#) approved for use in Australia as per the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) Guidelines.

| | BOOSTERS | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| | Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older ¹ Booster dose | Spikevax (Moderna) Booster dose ¹ | Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Booster dose – not preferred | Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) Booster dose – not preferred |
| Vaccine type | mRNA (nucleic acid) | mRNA (nucleic acid) | Protein-based | Viral vector |
| Approved age | 12 years and older ^{1,3} | 18 years and older ¹ | 18 years and older | 18 years and older |
| Cap colour |  Purple |  Red |  Blue |  Red |
| Dose volume | 0.3mL | 0.25mL | 0.5mL | 0.5mL |
| Doses per vial | 6 | 20 | 10 | 10 |
| Dilution required | Yes (1.8mL) | No | No | No |
| Recommended booster dose interval | 3 months after primary course and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection specific groups of 12–15-year-olds as per the ATAGI advice ³ | 3 months after primary course and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection | 3 months after primary course and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection | 3 months after primary course and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection |
| Recommended 4 th dose (winter booster) interval ² | 3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection for eligible populations 16 years and older only | 3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection for eligible populations only | Not preferred - For eligible populations only 3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection | Not preferred - For eligible populations only 3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection |

Notes

- For people aged 12 to 17 years, Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older is the only vaccine registered for use as a booster.
- Please refer to the ATAGI statement from 7 July 2022 for which groups are eligible for a 4th dose ([ATAGI advice](#))
- ATAGI statement on booster dose in adolescents aged 12-15 years ([ATAGI advice](#))

Storage and handling instructions are consistent with primary course vaccination storage and handling instructions