

# 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 ([here](#)) for the most up to date advice.

	PRIMARY COURSE						
	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 5 to 11 years <sup>1</sup> Primary Course	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older <sup>1</sup> Primary Course	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (6 months – 5 years)	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (6-11 years) <sup>2</sup>	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (12 years and older) <sup>2</sup>	Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Primary Course	Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) Primary Course
<b>Vaccine type</b>	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	Protein-based	Viral vector
<b>Approved age</b>	5 to 11 years <sup>4</sup>	12 years and older	6 months to 5 years	6 to 11 years <sup>4</sup>	12 years and older	12 years and older	18 years and older
<b>Cap colour</b>	 Orange	 Purple	 Blue <sup>10</sup>	 Red	 Red	 Blue	 Red
<b>Dose volume</b>	0.2mL	0.3mL	0.25ml	0.25mL	0.5mL	0.5mL	0.5mL
<b>Doses per vial</b>	10	6	10	20	10	10	10
<b>Dilution required</b>	Yes (1.3mL)	Yes (1.8mL)	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Recommended dose interval</b>	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks	12 weeks
<b>Approved minimum primary course dose interval<sup>7</sup></b>	3 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	4 weeks	3 weeks	4 weeks
<b>Third dose (as part of primary course for individuals who are severely immunocompromised)<sup>3</sup></b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes <sup>9</sup>	Yes, but not preferred <sup>6</sup>
<b>Storage temperature for unopened vials</b>	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	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -50°C to -15°C	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -50°C to -15°C	8°C to 25°C (12 hours) 2°C to 8°C (9 months)	2°C to 8°C (6 months)
<b>ATAGI recommendations for storing opened vials</b>	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 25°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C) or 48 hours (at 2°C to 8°C)
<b>ATAGI Recommendations for pre-drawn doses</b>	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)	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)
<b>Transport limitations</b>	80 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	Nil	Nil
<b>Light exposure</b>	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.	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.
<b>Handling vials</b>	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	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 Red) is the same product for 6-11 years, and 12 years and older.
- 3 ATAGI recommends that all severely immunocompromised individuals aged 6 months and over receive a 3rd primary dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- 4 A child should receive the dose that is applicable to them on the day of vaccination.
- 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
- 10 The vaccine is also referred to Spikevax Moderna (Blue/Purple) i.e., blue cap, purple label.

**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 [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au) for advice and for the vaccines to be assessed.**

**While waiting for VOC advice, quarantine the vaccines at the appropriate temperature 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 <sup>1</sup> Booster dose	Spikevax (Moderna) Booster dose <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>1,3</sup>	18 years and older <sup>1</sup>	12 years and older <sup>4</sup>	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 <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup> dose (winter booster) interval <sup>2</sup>	3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection for eligible populations <b>16 years and older only</b>	3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection for eligible populations only	<b>Not preferred - For eligible populations only</b> 3 months after booster dose and from 3 months after a confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection	<b>Not preferred - For eligible populations only</b> 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 4<sup>th</sup> dose ([ATAGI advice](#))
- ATAGI statement on booster dose in adolescents aged 12-15 years ([ATAGI advice](#))
- Although not TGA-registered as a booster in this age group, Novavax can be used as a booster in people aged 12 years or older if no other COVID-19 vaccine brand is suitable for that person. ([ATAGI advice](#))

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