COVID-19 VACCINATION

	Original (ancestral-based) vaccines			Bivalent mRNA vaccines		
	Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 3 mcg/0.2mL concentrated suspension for injection multi-dose vial	**Pfizer (COMIRNATY)** 10 mcg/0.2 mL concentrated suspension for injection multi-dose vial	**Novavax (NUVAXOVID)** 5 mcg/0.5 mL adjuvanted suspension for injection multi-dose vial	**Moderna (SPIKEVAX) Bivalent BA.4-5** 0.10 mg/mL suspension for injection pre-filled syringe	**Pfizer (COMIRNATY) Bivalent BA.4-5** 15/15 mcg/0.3 mL suspension for injection multi-dose vial	**Pfizer (COMIRNATY) Bivalent BA.1** 15/15 mcg/0.3 mL suspension for injection multi-dose vial
CVAS naming convention	Pfizer 6 months-4 years (Maroon)	Pfizer 5-11 years (Orange)	Novavax	Moderna Bivalent (BA.4-5) 12 years+ (PFS)	Pfizer Bivalent (BA.4-5) 12 years+ (Grey)	Pfizer Bivalent (BA.1) 18 years+ (Grey)
Vaccine type	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	Protein-based	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)
Approved age	6 months to 4 years[1]	5 to 11 years	12 years and older	12 years and older	12 years and older	18 years and older
Dose volume	0.20 mL	0.20 mL	0.50 mL	0.50 mL	0.30 mL	0.30 mL
Doses per vial	10	10	10	1	6	6
Dilution required	Yes (2.2 mL)	Yes (1.3 mL)	No	No	No	No
Recommended primary course interval[2]	8 weeks (second dose) and 8 weeks (third dose)	8 weeks	8 weeks[3]	8 weeks	8 weeks	8 weeks
Minimum primary course interval[4]	3 weeks (second dose) and 8 weeks third dose)	3 weeks	3 weeks[3]	4 weeks	3 weeks	3 weeks
Third primary dose[5]	Yes[6]	Yes	Yes[3,7]	Yes	Yes	Yes
Booster dose interval[8]	NA	6 months or more following last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection	6 months or more following last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection	6 months or more following last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection	6 months or more following last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection	6 months or more following last COVID-19 vaccine dose or confirmed infection
ULT freezer storage time[9]	18 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	18 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	DO NOT STORE	DO NOT STORE below -50°C	18 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C	18 months (shelf life) at -90°C to -60°C
Freezer storage time (unopened vaccine)[9]	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE	9 months (shelf life) at -50°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C	DO NOT STORE at -25°C to -15°C
Refrigeration storage time (unopened vaccine)[9]	70 days (2°C to 8°C) within the 18-month shelf life	70 days (2°C to 8°C) within the 18-month shelf life	9 months (2°C to 8°C)	30 days (2°C to 8°C) within the 9-month shelf life	70 days (2°C to 8°C) within the 18-month shelf life	70 days (2°C to 8°C) within the 18-month shelf life
Room temperature storage time (unopened vaccine)[9]	24 hours, pre- and post-dilution (up to 30°C)	24 hours, pre- and post-dilution (up to 30°C)	12 hours (up to 25°C)	24 hours (up to 25°C)	24 hours pre- and post-initial puncture (up to 30°C)	24 hours pre- and post-initial puncture (up to 30°C)
ATAGI recommendations for storing opened vials	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	NA	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C)
ATAGI recommendations for pre-drawn doses	1 hour (up to 30°C) or 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	1 hour (up to 30°C) or 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	Storing pre-drawn doses in syringes is not preferred[10]	NA	1 hour (up to 30°C) or 6 hours (2°C to 8°C)	1 hour (up to 30°C) or 6 hours (2°C to 8 °C)
Transport limitations	80 hours thawed	80 hours thawed	Nil	Nil	80 hours thawed	80 hours thawed

Notes:

1. ATAGI recommends COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 6 months to <5 years with severe immunocompromise, disability, and those who have complex and/or multiple health conditions which increase the risk of severe COVID-19.
2. All people are recommended to defer COVID-19 vaccination for 6 months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection. The next scheduled dose should then be given as soon as possible.
3. For people aged 12 years and older, a bivalent mRNA vaccine is now preferred over original (ancestral) vaccines for primary vaccination, see ATAGI advice on the preferential use of bivalent COVID-19 vaccines for primary vaccination of people aged 12 years or older. People aged 12 years and older who have commenced their primary course with an original (ancestral) vaccine are recommended to complete the course with a bivalent mRNA vaccine.
4. Dosing intervals can be shortened in specific circumstances for higher risk groups (such as older people or those with medical risk factors for severe illness), or before international travel. The benefits of earlier protection should be weighed against the benefits of the longer dose interval, such as a slightly lower risk of adverse events and a longer duration of protection.
5. A third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for all people aged 6 months or older with severe immunocompromise, 2 months after a 2-dose primary course, see ATAGI clinical recommendations for COVID-19 vaccines.
6. Children with severe immunocompromise who receive the 3-dose primary schedule of the Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 6 months to 4 years (maroon cap) vaccine do not require a fourth primary dose.
7. There is limited data on the immunogenicity or efficacy of Novavax (NUVAXOVID) in people with immunocompromise, see ATAGI recommendations.
8. All currently available COVID-19 vaccines are anticipated to provide benefit as a booster dose, however bivalent mRNA vaccines are preferred over other vaccines for people aged 12 years and older. For ages in which a bivalent mRNA vaccine is not approved (children aged 5 to 11 years), Pfizer (COMIRNATY) 5-11 years (orange cap) can be used.
9. If vaccines are stored or handled outside the conditions listed, complete the Cold Chain Breach (CCB) reporting form and email it to the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@health.gov.au.
10. If pre-drawn doses are used, ATAGI recommends that (where possible) pre-drawn doses in syringes should be used within 1 hour if kept at room temperature, and within 6 hours if kept at 2°C to 8°C. This is to minimise the risk of infection.

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