







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.





	PRIMARY COURSE					
	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 5 to 11 years [^]	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older [^] Primary Course	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (6-11 years)	Spikevax (Moderna) Primary Course (12+)	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 [*]	12 years and older	6 to 11 years ⁺⁺	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	3 weeks	8 weeks	4 weeks	3 weeks	12 weeks
Approved primary course dose interval^{###}	3 to 8 weeks	3 to 6 weeks	4 to 8 weeks	4 to 6 weeks	3 weeks minimum	4 to 12 weeks
Third dose (as part of primary course for individuals with severe immunocompromise)⁺	Yes	Preferred for a third dose	Yes	Preferred for a third dose	Yes	Yes, but not preferred ^{**}
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 (9 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 (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (12 hours) 2°C to 8°C (6 months)	2°C to 8°C (6 months)
ATAGI recommended 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)	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)
Storage time for open vials	12 hours (up to 30°C) 24 hours cumulative pre- and post-dilution	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)
Transport limitations	80 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	Nil	Nil

Notes

- [^] 12+ Pfizer. The Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older should not be administered to children aged under 12 years in any form.
- ⁺ ATAGI recommends that all immunocompromised individuals aged 5 years and over receive a 3rd primary dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- ⁺⁺ 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.
- ^{*} Children who turn 12 years of age after their first dose may receive the adolescent/adult dosage (.3ml) of the Pfizer vaccine.
- ^{**} As a 3-dose primary schedule for people who are severely immunocompromised if a mRNA vaccine is not available or suitable.
- ^{###} 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.

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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.

	BOOSTERS			
	Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older [^] Booster Dose (for 16+ only)	Spikevax (Moderna) Booster dose	Nuvaxovid (Novavax) Booster - yes if no other COVID-19 vaccine is considered suitable for that individual	Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) Booster - not preferred
Vaccine type	mRNA (nucleic acid)	mRNA (nucleic acid)	Protein-based	Viral vector
Approved age	16 years and older [#]	18 years and older [#]	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 dose interval	3 months after primary course	3 months after primary course	3 months after primary course	3 months after primary course
Storage temperature for unopened vials	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 (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (24 hours) 2°C to 8°C (30 days) -25°C to -15°C (9 months)	8°C to 25°C (12 hours) 2°C to 8°C (6 months)	2°C to 8°C (6 months)
ATAGI recommendation 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)
Storage time for open vials	6 hours (up to 30°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 25°C)	6 hours (up to 30°C)
Transport limitations	12 hours thawed	12 hours thawed	Nil	Nil

Notes

[^] 12+ Pfizer. The Comirnaty (Pfizer) 12 years and older should not be administered to children aged under 12 years in any form.

[#] Boosters are currently only approved for individuals aged 16 years and over for Comirnaty (Pfizer) and 18 years and over for Spikevax (Moderna). Boosters can be provided to immunocompromised individuals ages 12 years and older