



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccine

Primary Care Providers newsletter– 29 January 2021

Audience: Primary Care Providers newsletter

Update on the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines:

Victoria is currently preparing for the Commonwealth Government's COVID-19 vaccine program to commence. The first doses of vaccine will be ready for priority groups from mid to late February 2021. The exact date that first doses will be available depend on the progress of Australian approval processes. The Commonwealth Government will be responsible for the delivery of vaccines to states and territories.

The Commonwealth Government has confirmed that the vaccine will be provided to everybody at no cost.

At this stage, three vaccines may be included in Australia. Some basic information about each vaccine appears below. More detailed information will be progressively shared by the Commonwealth Department of Health in coming weeks.

Pfizer – mRNA vaccine

- Two doses required
- Initial clinical trials suggest 95% efficacy against symptomatic infection
- TGA approved
- Needs to be frozen at -70 °C for storage and transport, which introduces logistical difficulties. Once thawed it can be stored in a refrigerator for 3-5 days
- Timing: Pending approvals and vaccine arrival, it is anticipated the first Pfizer vaccines will be available in Victoria from mid-February 2021
- Number of doses per week: Victoria is expected to receive up to 25,000 doses per week for the first few weeks. This will increase to a maximum of 50,000 doses per week
- Purchase agreement: Australia will receive 10 million doses across 2021

AstraZeneca – viral vector vaccine

- Two doses required
- Initial clinical trials suggest 70% efficacy against symptomatic infection
- TGA approval – provisional determination
- Routine refrigerated cold chain
- Timing: Pending approvals and vaccine arrival, expected to be available from mid to late March 2021
- Number of doses per week: Victoria is expected to receive 250,000 doses per week
- Purchase agreement: 53 million doses spread across 2021. Most doses of this vaccine will be manufactured in Australia

Novavax – protein vaccine

- Two doses required
- Initial clinical trials suggest 89% efficacy against symptomatic infection

- Phase 3 trials are ongoing
- Timing: Currently unknown but expected in 2021
- Purchase agreement: around 50 million doses spread across 2021

Healthcare Provider Kit

The Commonwealth Government have provided a healthcare provider kit to support healthcare providers. This pack includes:

- Newsletter article
- Social media key messages
- Poster
- Information sheet for health professionals

Priority access to the vaccine

The Commonwealth Government has provided more details about who will have priority access to the vaccine. You can find further details on [who will get the vaccine](#).

Phase 1a – essential workers and people at an increased risk of exposure, infection and transmission of coronavirus (COVID-19).

- Quarantine and border workers
- Frontline at-risk health care workers including staff in GP respiratory clinics and coronavirus (COVID-19) testing facilities, ambulance staff, paramedics, ICU and emergency department staff, clinical and ancillary support staff
- Aged care and disability care staff
- Aged care and disability care residents.

Phase 1b – people working in critical services and people who have an increased risk, relative to others, of developing severe disease or dying from coronavirus (COVID-19).

- People over 70 years of age
- All other health care workers
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are 55 years of age and over
- Younger adults with an underlying medical condition, including those with a disability
- Critical and high-risk workers including defence, police, fire, emergency services and meat processing

Phase 2a

- People over 50 years of age
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 18-54 of age
- Other critical and high-risk workers

Phase 2b

- All other adults (people aged 18 years and over)
- Catch up any unvaccinated Australians from previous phases

Phase 3

- Using research and the latest evidence the vaccine may be recommended for young people and children (people aged 17 years and under)

Delivery of the vaccine

COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS):

This system will be rolled out for vaccine hubs and is expected to be made available to other vaccine providers such as GPs and health centres.

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine management system (CVMS) is an end-to-end system being developed to support the roll out of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine. This includes capacity for:

- logistics integration and stock and cold chain management
- online / assisted registration and bookings to be made by members of the public
- frontline clinical delivery including vial scanning
- upload of information to the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR)
- enhanced post immunisation follow-up and recording and reporting of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)
- state-wide and service level operational reporting

This system is being developed by Microsoft currently for use in Victoria. The system will support the safe and efficient rollout of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine in Victoria. There are three releases planned for the system:

- **Late February 2021** – essential capability to support the initial round of vaccination including core platform components to support centralised bulk booking management functions, capture all data, reporting and integration with bulk upload to AIR and AEFI-CAN
- **29 March 2021** – additional functionality to support increased uptake and additional integration capabilities. This includes extended booking functions (client led booking), vaccine follow up, further integration, tracking of consumables and PPE and further reporting capabilities.
- **7 May 2021** - all remaining functionality and integration into logistics partner and stock suppliers.

Sources of information

The latest information about the vaccine can be found here: <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines> or www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine

- [research hub](#)
- [information for healthcare workers](#)
- [Information about adverse event reporting](#)
- The Commonwealth has a [COVID-19 vaccine hub](#) that is updated regularly

Contact us

You can contact the COVID-19 Vaccination Preparedness Unit at the Department of Health and Human Services on COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au.