



Clinical Advisory – extension of Comirnaty (COVID-19 mRNA vaccine) storage conditions

Following approval by Medsafe the storage conditions have changed for all batches of Comirnaty (COVID-19 mRNA vaccine) available in New Zealand.

The extended expiry means that all unopen undiluted vials can be stored for up to 1 month (31 days) at 2° to 8°C (Refrigerate, do not freeze). <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/regulatory/ProductDetail.asp?ID=21938>

The Immunisation Advisory Centre is aware that there is stock in DHB and community clinic supply, that has a 5 day expiry timeframe listed on them. Relabelled stock with updated expiry details is expected to start arriving from Wednesday 2nd of June.

In the interim IMAC advise providers:

- The current vaccine stock sitting in DHB pharmacies can be relabelled to reflect the updated Medsafe information, if this is possible before sending out to DHB and community clinics please do this.
- The current vaccine stock at COVID-19 Community Vaccinator Centre's, can be used with the extended expiry date, this needs to be a clinical decision made by the clinic lead.
- To extend the expiry date add 25 days to the current date associated with the vaccine sub batch number.
- If clinic leads are not comfortable using vaccine stock that hasn't been relabelled, please quarantine your "expiring" stock in 2° to 8°C system and discuss with your DHB pharmacy regarding getting the stock relabelled with new expiry date.

Immunisation Advisory Centre
28 May 2021