

COVID-19 vaccine comparison



The Immunisation
Advisory Centre

COVID-19
EDUCATION

VERSION 1	Pfizer/BioNTech (30mcg) 12+ years Comirnaty	Pfizer/BioNTech (10mcg) 5-11 years Comirnaty Paediatric	AstraZeneca Vaxzevria
Vial cap colour	Purple	Orange	Dark orange/red
Technology	mRNA	mRNA	Non-replicating viral vector
Primary Schedule	2 doses at least 21 days apart	2 doses 8 weeks apart	2 doses 4 to 12 weeks apart
Severe immunocompromised	3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose	N/A	No 3rd primary dose indicated
Booster	Single dose administered 3 months after primary course if ≥18 years	N/A	Single dose administered 4 months after primary course if ≥18 years
Eligibility	≥12 years <i>Pfizer is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for use in NZ, reflecting its excellent safety and efficacy profile</i>	5-11 years	≥18 years
Who can administer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed) COVID-19 Vaccinators Working Under Supervision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after Paediatric COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine course completed)
Pregnancy	Safe to administer during any stage of pregnancy or conception	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient data so not routinely recommended in pregnancy If Pfizer vaccine is C/I, the AstraZeneca vaccine can be given
Breastfeeding	Yes	N/A	Yes
Written consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal consent for 1st, 2nd or booster doses Written consent required for 3rd primary dose 	Written or verbal consent by legal guardian for 1st and 2nd doses	Required for all AstraZeneca vaccination events
Prescription required	3rd primary dose for immunocompromised	No	For mixed schedule of COVID-19 vaccines and for booster dose
Appearance	Clear to off-white, particle free	Clear to off-white, particle free	Clear to slightly opaque, colourless to slightly brown, particle free
Dilution	Must dilute with 1.8mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use	Must dilute with 1.3mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use	No dilution required
Doses per vial	6 doses per vial (5 or 7 doses per vial acceptable dependent on needle selection)	10-12 doses per vial (dependent on needle selection)	10 doses per vial (11 doses possible if using LDS needles)
Injection volume	0.3 mL	0.2 mL	0.5 mL
Syringe/needle	1mL syringe with 25-38mm, 21-25G standard or LDS needle	Sol-M 1ml syringe + 25G 16mm needle (comes attached) or 25G 25mm non-LDS needle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1mL FluPlus syringes with permanently attached 23G 25mm needle If longer needle required, use 1mL syringe plus 38mm 21-25G needle
Travel time restrictions	Maximum 12 hours transport time of undiluted vaccine from freezer storage	No transport time consideration	No transport time consideration
Refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C)	Undiluted 31 days with expiry printed on box label	Undiluted 10 weeks with USE BY on box label	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 months with expiry printed on vial label Vaccine stable for 48 hours from first opening of vial if kept at +2°C to +8°C
Room temperature (+2°C to +30°C)	Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, or 6 hours from adding diluent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, 12 hours from adding diluent Doses kept in syringes may be stored for up to 6 hours cumulatively 	Doses kept in syringes may be stored for up to 5 hours cumulatively (if within 48 hours from vial opening)
Use by (ie, administer to patient)	Must use by 6 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C)	Must use by 6 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be used within 5 hours (+2°C to +30°C) of draw up or 48 hours from first opening vial, whichever occurs first Vial must be returned to fridge when not in use

CALL 0800 IMMUNE (466 863) FOR CLINICAL ADVICE, 8AM - 8PM, 7 DAYS PER WEEK