

COVID-19 vaccine comparison



The Immunisation
Advisory Centre

COVID-19
EDUCATION

| VERSION 2 | Pfizer/BioNTech (30mcg) 12+ years Comirnaty | Pfizer/BioNTech (10mcg) 5-11 years Comirnaty Paediatric | AstraZeneca Vaxzevria | Novavax (5mcg) Nuvaxovid |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Vial cap colour | Purple | Orange | Dark orange/red | Blue |
| Technology | mRNA | mRNA | Non-replicating viral vector | Recombinant protein vaccine |
| Primary Schedule | 2 doses at least 21 days apart | 2 doses 8 weeks apart | 2 doses 4 to 12 weeks apart | 2 doses at least 21 days apart |
| Severe immunocompromised | 3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose | N/A | No 3rd primary dose indicated | Currently not approved due to limited data. We recommend use as a 3rd primary dose be discussed with IMAC |
| Booster | Single dose administered 3 months after primary course if ≥18 years | N/A | Single dose administered at least 3 months after primary course if ≥18 years | Currently not approved due to limited data. We recommend use as a booster dose to be discussed with IMAC |
| 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 | ≥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 COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course and Paediatric COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine course completed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after Novavax 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 | Insufficient data, so not routinely recommended in pregnancy. If Pfizer vaccine is C/I, the Nuvaxovid vaccine can be given on specialist opinion (0800 IMMUNE) |
| Breastfeeding | Yes | N/A | Yes | Insufficient data to recommend at this stage |
| 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 | Required when given off label (mixed schedule, 3rd primary dose and booster dose) |
| Prescription required | 3rd primary dose for immunocompromised | If used off label | For mixed schedule of COVID-19 vaccines and for booster dose | For mixed schedule of COVID-19 vaccines, 3rd primary dose for immunocompromised and booster doses |
| Appearance | Clear to off-white, particle free | Clear to off-white, particle free | Clear to slightly opaque, colourless to slightly brown, particle free | Colourless to slightly yellow, clear to mildly opalescent suspension free from visible particles |
| 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 | 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) | 10 doses per vial |
| Injection volume | 0.3 mL | 0.2 mL | 0.5 mL | 0.5mL |
| 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 | <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 | 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 | 6 months |
| 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) | Opened: up to 6 hours (+2°C to +25°C) |
| 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 | Must be used within 6 hours from first opening vial |

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