

Pfizer/BioNTech and MMR vaccine comparison

| VERSION 3 | Pfizer/BioNTech (30mcg) 12+ years Comirnaty | Pfizer/BioNTech (10mcg) 5-11 years Comirnaty Paediatric | MMR vaccine |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Vial cap colour | Purple | Orange | Pale green |
| Technology | mRNA | mRNA | Live attenuated whole cell vaccine (3 virus types) |
| Primary Schedule | 2 doses at least 21 days apart | 2 doses 8 weeks apart | 2 doses at ages 12 and 15 months, or 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart for children to adults |
| Severe immunocompromise | 3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose | 3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose | N/A |
| Booster | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single dose 3 months after primary course if ≥18 years old Single dose 6 months after primary course 16 – 17 years old Second booster recommended 6 months after first booster if ≥65 years old or Māori/Pacific ethnicities ≥50 years or residents of aged care and disability care facilities or severely immunocompromised ≥16 years. It is also available for healthcare workers 30y+ and anyone 50y+ | N/A | N/A |
| Eligibility | Pfizer is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for use in NZ, reflecting its excellent safety and efficacy profile | 5-11 years | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children aged under 18 years, and Adults born 1 January 1969 or later with no documented evidence, or 2 doses of MMR-containing vaccine given after 1 year 1 dose of MMR for infants aged 6–11 months during measles outbreaks if cases are occurring in the very young. |
| 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 Provisional vaccinators Authorised vaccinators and pharmacist vaccinators, including pharmacist interns |
| Pregnancy | Safe to administer during any stage of pregnancy or conception | N/A | NO live vaccine should be given during pregnancy |
| Breastfeeding | Yes | N/A | Yes |
| Written consent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal consent for 1st, 2nd primary or 1st booster doses Written consent required for 3rd primary dose and 2nd booster | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal consent by legal guardian for 1st and 2nd doses Written consent required for 3rd primary dose | Written or verbal consent |
| Prescription required | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3rd primary dose for immunocompromised 2nd booster if eligible | 3rd primary dose for immunocompromised | No |
| Appearance | Clear to off-white, particle free | Clear to off-white, particle free | Whitish to slightly pink powder reconstituted with sterile clear colourless sodium chloride 0.9% diluent; clear to pink particle free solution |
| Dilution | Must dilute with 1.8 mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use | Must dilute with 1.3 mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use | Reconstitution required; diluent (water for injections) supplied with vial |
| 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) | 1 |
| 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 | 1ml syringe + 25G needle for reconstitution and 25G 25mm or 16mm non-LDS needle for drawing up & administration |
| 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 | Undiluted 2 years with expiry printed on box label and vial |
| Room temperature (+2°C to +30°C) | Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, or 6 hours from adding diluent | Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, 12 hours from adding diluent. | |
| Use by (ie, administer to patient) | Must use by 6 hours in syringe from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C) | Must use by 6 hours in syringe from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C) | Must use by 8 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +8°C) |