

# COVID-19 vaccine comparison

VERSION 7	Comirnaty (30mcg) 12+ years Pfizer/BioNTech	Comirnaty Paediatric (10mcg) 5-11 years Pfizer/BioNTech	Nuvaxovid (5mcg) Novavax
Vial cap colour	Purple	Orange	Blue
Technology	mRNA	mRNA	Recombinant protein vaccine
Eligibility	≥12 years <i>Comirnaty is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for use in NZ, reflecting its excellent safety and efficacy profile</i>	5-11 years	≥12 years
Primary Schedule	2 doses administered 3-8 weeks apart	2 doses administered 3-8 weeks apart	2 doses administered 3-8 weeks apart
Severe immunocompromised	3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose	3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose	Currently not approved, discuss use as a 3rd primary dose with IMAC
Booster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≥18 years – 1st booster 3-6 months after primary course</li> <li>16-17 years – 1st booster 6 months after primary course</li> <li>≥16 years – 2nd booster is recommended for those at increased risk of severe illness administered at least 6 months after 1st booster (see eligibility criteria)</li> </ul>	N/A	Boosters available for those >18 yrs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1st booster administered 6 months after primary course</li> <li>2nd booster is recommended for those at increased risk of severe illness administered at least 6 months after 1st booster (see eligibility criteria)</li> </ul>
Who can administer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribers</li> <li>Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed)</li> <li>COVID-19 Vaccinators Working Under Supervision and Vaccinating Health Workers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribers</li> <li>Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course and Paediatric COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribers</li> <li>Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course and Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine course completed)</li> </ul>
Pregnancy	Safe to administer during any stage of pregnancy or conception	N/A	Insufficient data, not recommended in pregnancy. If Comirnaty is contraindicated, contact 0800 IMMUNE
Breastfeeding	Yes	N/A	Contact 0800 IMMUNE for specialist advice
Written consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written or verbal consent for 1st, 2nd or booster doses</li> <li>Written consent required for 3rd primary dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written or verbal consent by legal guardian for 1st and 2nd dose</li> <li>Written consent required for 3rd primary dose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Written or verbal consent for 1st, 2nd or booster doses</li> <li>Written consent required if used as 3rd primary dose, mixed schedule primary course</li> </ul>
Prescription required	For 3rd primary dose or any dose outside of recommended schedule	For 3rd primary dose or any dose outside of recommended schedule	For mixed schedule of COVID-19 vaccines, 3rd primary dose or any dose outside of recommended schedule
Appearance	Clear to off-white, particle free	Clear to off-white, particle free	Colourless to slightly yellow, clear to mildly opalescent suspension free from visible particles
Dilution	<b>Must dilute with 1.8mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use</b>	<b>Must dilute with 1.3mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use</b>	<b>No dilution required</b>
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
Injection volume	0.3 mL	0.2 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"> <li>1mL FluPlus syringes with permanently attached 23G 25mm needle</li> <li>If longer needle required, use 1mL syringe plus 38mm 21-25G needle</li> </ul>
Travel time restrictions	Maximum 48 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. <b>Always follow use by date on box</b>	Undiluted 10 weeks. <b>Always follow use by date on box</b>	<b>Follow use by date on box [may be later than on vial]</b>
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"> <li>Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, 12 hours from adding diluent</li> <li>Doses kept in syringes may be stored for up to 6 hours cumulatively</li> </ul>	Opened: up to 6 hours (+2°C to +25°C)
Use by (ie, administer to patient)	<b>Must use by 6 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C)</b>	<b>Must use by 6 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C)</b>	<b>Must be used within 6 hours from first opening vial</b>

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