

Pfizer/BioNTech and MMR vaccine comparison

VERSION 4	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 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 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)