

COVID-19 Immunisation Clinical Toolkit

This toolkit provides COVID-19 vaccinators with a summary of current guidelines, including links to current IMAC and Te Whatu Ora resources. All resources are listed with a version number and links to our website.

Recent changes

COVID-19 website

IMAC's dedicated COVID-19 website is now closed. We have moved the latest guidance, documents and resources to immune.org.nz. COVID-19 vaccination information is now integrated with our routine programmes.

New IMAC courses

The Aotearoa NZ COVID-19 Vaccinator course combines the original individual COVID-19 vaccine courses. It covers information on all currently used COVID-19 vaccines in New Zealand. This free course is compulsory for new COVID-19 vaccinators and is also a good refresher: tinyurl.com/mrjmykk3

The Second Checker course is for non-registered team members to enable them to complete specific checks of the vaccine preparation process in settings where there are limited clinical staff onsite. It is a 2-hour free course: tinyurl.com/vyjfuh65

Guidance for additional booster doses for Summer 2023-24

The eligibility criteria for COVID-19 vaccines set in April 2023 remains unchanged.

- There is refreshed clinical advice to inform the consumer risk/benefit discussion of an additional booster for Summer 2023-24 tinyurl.com/y2jxrzkt
- The recommended minimum dose interval between additional booster doses remains 6 months after COVID-19 disease or previous COVID-19 vaccine
- Clinical discretion for those who are severely immunocompromised can be applied to spacing rules: For Comirnaty mRNA-CV, a minimum of 5 months between primary and booster, 4 months between booster doses, and from 3 months after illness. The gap between Nuvaxovid (rCV) is 6 months. Vaccine given outside this spacing will require a prescription.

Calculating current COVID-19 vaccines use by times

Up to 12 hours in open vial and up to 6 hours in syringe – whichever is soonest.

Action	Syringe use by time	Vial use by time
9am: Vial first punctured, and 3 doses drawn up immediately. Vial returned to the fridge	3pm	9pm
11.45am: Vial taken out of fridge and a further 2 doses are drawn up. Vial returned to fridge	5.45pm	9pm
5pm: Final dose is drawn up from the vial	9pm	9pm

Swapping between Comirnaty vaccines

- Those who start with a Comirnaty 10mcg orange cap vaccine and turn 12 years old before completing the course should have a Comirnaty 30mcg grey cap vaccine for any subsequent primary doses.
- Eligible children who commence the 3-dose Comirnaty 3mcg maroon cap schedule require all three doses of vaccine. If they turn 5 during this schedule, the rest of the schedule is completed using Comirnaty 10mcg orange cap vaccine: tinyurl.com/3wtdfmu2

SECTION 1 | COMIRNATY GREY CAP VACCINES

Comirnaty 30mcg and Comirnaty Original/Omicron 15/15mcg Grey cap vaccines



Caution – both vaccine boxes and vials look very similar! Extra care needed with vaccine selection.

Comirnaty 30mcg grey cap vaccine is for **primary course** doses for those aged 12 years and over. It is a monovalent vaccine containing 30mcg mRNA original SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

Comirnaty 15/15mcg grey cap vaccine is the vaccine of choice for **booster and additional booster doses**. It is a bivalent vaccine containing 15mcg mRNA original SARS-CoV-2 spike protein and 15mcg mRNA Omicron BA.4-5 spike protein.

	Comirnaty 30mcg grey cap vaccine	Comirnaty 15/15mcg grey cap vaccine
Age range	12 years and over	Licensed from 12 years, but programme schedule is from 16 years
Used for	Primary series	Booster and additional booster
Severe immunocompromise	3rd primary dose 8 weeks after 2nd dose	Not used for primary series
Prescription required	For 3rd primary dose and any dose outside recommended schedule	For any dose outside recommended schedule
Written consent	For 3rd primary dose and any dose outside recommend schedule	For any dose outside recommended schedule
Dilution	No dilution required	
Volume per dose	0.3ml	
Number of doses per vial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-7 doses of 0.3ml if using LDS needles • 5-6 doses if using non LDS 	
Cold chain storage (+2°C to +8°C) - Fridge temp (+8°C to +30°C) - Room temp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is best practice for punctured vials to be returned to fridge • Grey cap vaccines can be administered directly from fridge • Syringes can be stored at room temperature 	
Travel time (+2°C to 8°C)	No restrictions	
Vaccine preparation	Always follow the expiry date on the vaccine box, not the vial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare doses as needed. • Punctured vials are stable for 12 hours and syringes for up to 6 hours – whichever is soonest. See example below 	

Current resources for Comirnaty 30mcg and 15/15mcg grey cap vaccines

To access resources for the Comirnaty 30mcg and 15/15mcg vaccine, visit: tinyurl.com/26jaavcu

- [Comirnaty_Grey_Information for health professionals_v5](https://tinyurl.com/472zk74v) (tinyurl.com/472zk74v)
- [Comirnaty_Grey and orange_Screening guide_v20](https://tinyurl.com/2cc6cvr6) (tinyurl.com/2cc6cvr6)
- [Comirnaty_Grey_Vaccine preparation_v3](https://tinyurl.com/32rc4vee) (tinyurl.com/32rc4vee)
- [Comirnaty_Grey_Vaccine record_v1](https://tinyurl.com/55xd8xhs) (tinyurl.com/55xd8xhs)
- [Comirnaty_Vaccination in pregnancy for health professionals_v7](https://tinyurl.com/7e67k4ah) (tinyurl.com/7e67k4ah)
- [Comirnaty_Vaccine development_v1](https://tinyurl.com/5fn5jued) (tinyurl.com/5fn5jued)

SECTION 2 | COMIRNATY ORANGE CAP VACCINES

Calculating current COVID-19 vaccines use by times

Up to 12 hours in open vial and up to 6 hours in syringe – whichever is soonest.

Comirnaty 10mcg vial cap colour	Orange
Age range	5 years to 11 years
Used for	2 dose primary series
Recommended spacing	8 weeks between doses (minimum of 21 days)
Booster and additional doses	Not part of programme
Severe immunocompromise	3rd primary dose 8 weeks after 2nd dose
Prescription required	For 3rd primary dose and any dose outside recommended schedule
Written consent	Required for 3rd primary dose and any dose outside recommended schedule
Dilution	Must dilute with 1.3ml Sodium Chloride 0.9%
Volume per dose	0.2ml
Number of doses per vial	10 (can vary depending on equipment used)
Refrigerator storage (+2°C to +8°C)	Undiluted vaccine, follow USE BY date on vaccine box, not vial
Travel time (+2°C to +8°C)	No restrictions
Room temperature (+2°C to +30°C)	Stable 2 hours at room temperature prior to diluting After dilution, stable for 12 hours in vial; 6 hours in syringe – whichever is soonest Best practice is to return opened vial to the fridge
Prior to administration	When diluted vial or syringe is refrigerated, allow the dose to come to room temperature before administration

Current resources for Comirnaty 10mcg orange cap vaccine

The following link takes you to the Comirnaty 10mcg orange cap vaccine page to access resources for this vaccine: tinyurl.com/5a8cys6c

- [Comirnaty_Grey and orange_Screening guide_v20](https://tinyurl.com/2cc6cvrb) (tinyurl.com/2cc6cvrb)
- [Comirnaty_Orange_Vaccine preparation_v3](https://tinyurl.com/you6ryk8y) (tinyurl.com/you6ryk8y)
- [Comirnaty_Orange_Vaccine record_Individual_v3](https://tinyurl.com/mpmj6paw) (tinyurl.com/mpmj6paw)
- [Comirnaty_Safe vaccine preparation_v1](https://tinyurl.com/mte2sb6j) (tinyurl.com/mte2sb6j)

SECTION 3 | COMIRNATY MAROON CAP VACCINES

The use of Comirnaty 3mcg maroon cap vaccine is limited to young children aged between 6 months and 4 years of age who are at highest risk of severe infection if they were to catch COVID-19, such as those with severe immunocompromise or with complex and/or multiple health conditions.

See Starship guidelines: starship.org.nz/guidelines/covid-19-disease-in-children/

Comirnaty 3mcg vial cap colour	Maroon
Age range	6 months to 4 years high-risk only
Used for	3 dose primary series
Recommended spacing	Minimum 21 days between dose 1 and dose 2 and 8 weeks between dose 2 and dose 3
Prescription required	For any dose outside recommended schedule
Written consent	Required for any dose outside recommended schedule
Dilution	Must dilute with 2.2ml Sodium Chloride 0.9%
Volume per dose	0.2ml
Number of doses per vial	10
Refrigerator storage (+2°C to +8°C)	Undiluted vaccine, follow USE BY date on vaccine box, not vial
Travel time (+2°C to +8°C)	No restrictions
Room temperature (+2°C to +30°C)	Stable 2 hours at room temperature prior to diluting After dilution, stable for 12 hours in vial; 6 hours in syringe – whichever is soonest Best practice is to return opened vial to the fridge
Prior to administration	When diluted vial or syringe is refrigerated, allow the dose to come to room temperature before administration

Current resources for Comirnaty 3mcg maroon cap vaccine

The following link takes you to the Comirnaty 3mcg maroon cap vaccine page to access resources for this vaccine: tinyurl.com/mtf48ekc

- [Comirnaty_Maroon_Screening guide_v1](https://tinyurl.com/4ru3vxfj) (tinyurl.com/4ru3vxfj)
- [Comirnaty_Maroon_Administration guide_v2](https://tinyurl.com/mry578as) (tinyurl.com/mry578as)
- [Comirnaty_Maroon_Vaccine preparation_v1](https://tinyurl.com/3a5d8ytc) (tinyurl.com/3a5d8ytc)
- [Comirnaty_Maroon_Vaccine record_v1](https://tinyurl.com/yjd3e87b) (tinyurl.com/yjd3e87b)
- [Comirnaty_Maroon_Schedule_v2](https://tinyurl.com/3wtdfmu2) (tinyurl.com/3wtdfmu2)

SECTION 4 | NUVAXOVID VACCINE

Nuvaxovid, the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine, is a recombinant protein vaccine used as an alternative to the Comirnaty vaccine in those eligible aged 12 years and over.

Nuvaxovid vial cap colour	Blue
Age range	12 years and over
Used for	2 dose primary series 8 weeks apart from 12 years and over and first booster and additional boosters doses from 18 years and over
Prescription required	For any dose outside recommended schedule and mixed primary series
Written consent	Required for any dose outside recommended schedule and for a mixed primary dose
Dilution	Do not dilute. Must not be shaken
Volume per dose	0.5ml
Number of doses per vial	10
Refrigerator storage (+2°C to 8°C)	Follow USE BY date on vaccine box, not vial
Travel time (+2°C to 8°C)	No restrictions
Room temperature (+2°C to 25°C)	After first puncture, stable 12 hours in vial, 6 hours in syringe – whichever is soonest Note: Lower room temperature limit. Recommendation is that the opened vaccine is stored in the fridge, not at room temperature

Current resources for Nuvaxovid vaccine

The following link takes you to the Nuvaxovid vaccine page to access resources for this vaccine:

tinyurl.com/59jyw8xb

- [Nuvaxovid_Information for health professionals_v6 \(tinyurl.com/2746akez\)](https://tinyurl.com/2746akez)
- [Nuvaxovid_Screening Guide_v10 \(tinyurl.com/2dhbbym4\)](https://tinyurl.com/2dhbbym4)
- [Nuvaxovid_Vaccine preparation_v3 \(tinyurl.com/3whmpee8\)](https://tinyurl.com/3whmpee8)
- [Nuvaxovid_Vaccine preparation quick reference_v2 \(tinyurl.com/mp9vb9x3\)](https://tinyurl.com/mp9vb9x3)
- [Nuvaxovid_Vaccine record_v2 \(tinyurl.com/v3aw8htj\)](https://tinyurl.com/v3aw8htj)

SECTION 5 | SPACING WITH OTHER VACCINES

All National Immunisation Schedule and influenza vaccines can be given at the same time as Comirnaty and Nuvaxovid.

- Nuvaxovid, Shingrix and Flud Quad are adjuvanted vaccines. When two or more of these are administered together, consumers should be informed of the possibility of a stronger post-vaccination response.

Consider spacing mpox (JYNNEOS) and COVID-19 vaccines by 28 days apart for individuals at increased risk of myocarditis or pericarditis (males 16 to 40 years) in an abundance of caution.

Informed consent and post vaccine advice

Every consumer, as part of informed consent, must be given clear information on possible vaccine effects, including the risk of pericarditis and myocarditis, and information on recognising and managing possible signs should be included in all post-vaccination advice. This should be verbal and in writing with an option for a photo to be taken. This advice must be repeated for EVERY dose of the vaccine. See screening guides for detailed information on informed consent and post-vaccine advice.

“After the COVID-19 vaccination” advice sheet is available at: tinyurl.com/4nkzz5fn

Best practice strategies

The following resources, in addition to the ones already listed, have been designed to support best practice and to help reduce the risk of errors.

- [Myo-pericarditis for health professionals_v7](https://tinyurl.com/5e6n9c3j) (tinyurl.com/5e6n9c3j)
- [Comirnaty_Stop! What top?_v1](https://tinyurl.com/y4u4mnh7) (tinyurl.com/y4u4mnh7)
- [Comirnaty_Expiry dates_v1](https://tinyurl.com/98p7p9ra) (tinyurl.com/98p7p9ra)
- [Comirnaty_Safe vaccine preparation_v1](https://tinyurl.com/mte2sb6j) (tinyurl.com/mte2sb6j)
- [Comirnaty_Vaccine comparison chart_v10](https://tinyurl.com/3wz4vf4j) (tinyurl.com/3wz4vf4j)
- [7 rights of administration](https://tinyurl.com/3rx67evh) (tinyurl.com/3rx67evh)

REMINDER

- Keep up to date with changes – sign up for our updates [here](https://tinyurl.com/3aydykw6) (tinyurl.com/3aydykw6)
- Check vaccine history and complete full screening
- Informed consent required every time for every dose
- Provide clear, written post-vaccination advice including potential risk of myocarditis
- Print and display: 7 rights of administration; Stop! What top?, Expiry dates and Safe vaccine preparation posters

Te Whatu Ora resources

- [COVID-19 information for health professionals](https://tinyurl.com/yjc9e23k) (tinyurl.com/yjc9e23k)
- [COVID-19 dropbox](https://tinyurl.com/3wu87644) (tinyurl.com/3wu87644)

Please provide feedback on this toolkit [here](https://tinyurl.com/pznjd9dw) (tinyurl.com/pznjd9dw)