



# Primary Care Vaccine Roll-out

## Provider Bulletin

8 April 2022

*Bulletins provide you with regular updates and guidance on the COVID-19 Vaccine Program.*

### Key Messages

#### ATAGI UPDATE

##### Use of Booster doses in adolescents aged 12-15 years

ATAGI notes on 8 April 2022, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) [approved](#) a booster dose of Comirnaty (Pfizer) COVID-19 vaccine for use in adolescents aged 12-15 years.

ATAGI has reviewed evidence on the benefits and risks of a booster dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents in Australia aged 12-15 years. Current data suggest that COVID-related serious illness is very rare in adolescents aged 12-15, particularly after completion of a primary series of COVID-19 vaccination.

**At this time, ATAGI does [not recommend](#) that adolescents aged 12-15 years need to receive a booster dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and will continue to review international evidence on efficacy of a booster in this age group.**

ATAGI continue to strongly recommend vaccination of all young people aged 5 to 15 years with 2 primary doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, including those who may have previously had COVID-19; 3 primary doses are recommended for those in this age group who are severely immunocompromised.

ATAGI will continue to review and consider new evidence on the benefits and risks of any additional doses in 12-15 year olds, including for those with underlying medical conditions

## COVID-19 VACCINE PAYMENT UPDATE

### General Practice COVID-19 Vaccine Payments

The Budget included extensions to all the current COVID-19 vaccine funding arrangements for general practices.

The following table summarises the components that have been extended:

COVID-19 funding description	Current \$	Notes	
<b>MBS (93624 – 93627)</b> COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items - first dose business hours	\$31.05 (GP MMM1) \$37.70 (GP MMM2-7) \$24.20 (OMP MMM1) \$34.10 (OMP MMM2-7)	These MBS items have been extended to 31 December 2022  They will be subject to indexation on 1 July 2022	
<b>MBS (93634 – 93637)</b> COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items – first dose after hours	\$43.30 (GP MMM1) \$49.90 (GP MMM2-7) \$34.30 (OMP MMM1) \$43.90 (OMP MMM2-7)		
<b>MBS (93644 – 93647)</b> COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items – subsequent dose business hours	\$24.45 (GP MMM1) \$27.80 (GP MMM2-7) \$17.65 (OMP MMM1) \$24.20 (OMP MMM2-7)		
<b>MBS (93653 – 93656)</b> COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment items – subsequent dose after hours	\$36.75 (GP MMM1) \$40.05 (GP MMM2-7) \$27.75 (OMP MMM1) \$34.00 (OMP MMM2-7)		
<b>MBS (93666)</b> Booster dose incentive	\$10 per booster dose		
<b>MBS (90005)</b> Flag-fall for suitability assessments delivered away from the Practice clinic	\$57.25		
<b>MBS (10660/10661)</b> In-depth assessment	\$39.10 (GP) \$31.10 (OMP)		
<b>MBS (93660/93661)</b> Relevant health professional provides a vaccine suitability assessment away from the Practice clinic	\$21.00 (metro) \$24.00 (non-metro)		
<b>Practice Incentives Program (PIP)</b> – for First and second suitability assessment conducted by a practice	\$10		This payment has been extended to 31 December 2022
<b>In-reach vaccination clinics</b> for Residential aged care and disability services – for suitability assessment	\$1000 for first 50 workers \$20 per worker/resident thereafter		Funding for the in-reach clinics has been extended to 31 December 2022

<http://www.mbsonline.gov.au/internet/mbsonline/publishing.nsf/Content/Factsheet-COVID-Support>

## VOC UPDATE

### Changes to Operating Hours

From Sunday 3 April 2022, the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) operating hours changed to the following:

Day	AEST	AWST
Monday - Thursday	7am – 8pm	5am - 6pm
Friday	7am – 9pm	5am – 7pm
Saturday – Sunday	8am - 7pm	6am – 5pm

### Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays.

VOC operating hours will change during the **Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays**:

Date	Public Holiday	VOC Opening Hours
15/04/22	Good Friday	09:00 to 18:00 AEST
16/04/22	Easter Saturday	09:00 to 18:00 AEST
17/04/22	Easter Sunday	09:00 to 18:00 AEST
18/04/22	Easter Monday	09:00 to 18:00 AEST
25/04/22	ANZAC Day	09:00 to 18:00 AEST

Deliveries Schedules across the **Easter and ANZAC Day public holidays**:

Date	Public Holiday	VOC Opening Hours
15/04/22	Good Friday	To be delivered by RDD Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> April
18/04/22	Easter Monday	To be delivered by RDD Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
25/04/22	ANZAC Day	To be delivered by RDD Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April

You can also contact the VOC via [COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au](mailto:COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au).

## VACCINE PROGRAM PARTICIPATION CHANGES

### Site or vaccine withdrawals

To assist with accurate recording of sites wanting to withdraw from the Program or from administering selected vaccines, we ask that you contact your PHN to notify your intention to withdraw or amend the vaccines you will be administering. Your PHN will pass this information onto the Taskforce in a timely manner to enable the accurate administration of the request.

## EASY VACCINE ACCESS UPDATE

### 'Hey EVA' - boosting COVID-19 vaccines in the community

[EVA \(Easy Vaccine Access\)](#) is a simple call back service helping people book a COVID-19 vaccine.

A National Coronavirus Helpline agent provides personalised support to people who need extra help to book a COVID-19 vaccine, including:

- arranging an interpreter to be present during the call back
- calling vaccine providers during the call to book on the consumer's behalf
- finding a provider that suits their needs

Healthcare and other service providers, with the consent of a consumer, can contact EVA to arrange a call back direct to the person. This means less time is diverted from other service provision in trying to find them a vaccine appointment. Simply follow the prompt below and input the consumer's details when requested.

In its first week, EVA provided COVID-19 vaccine advice and booked vaccination appointments, with an 86% success rate. Many of the call backs were for the winter dose.

*'So impressed with EVA. I'm booked for 4th booster. So quick and efficient and the nicest girl to deal with' – EVA user, 75 years old*

Please help share EVA with your patient and the community. Include the wording below on your social profiles, regular newsletter, and website.

SMS '**Hey EVA**' to 0481 611 382 for help booking a COVID-19 vaccine. Someone from the National Coronavirus Helpline will call you back and find you an appointment. EVA is available every day from 7 am to 10 pm (AEST) with free interpreting assistance. [health.gov.au/eva](https://health.gov.au/eva)

If you have any feedback for EVA, please contact [digitalCV19@health.gov.au](mailto:digitalCV19@health.gov.au)