Australian Government
Operation COVID Shield

COVID-19 VACCINATION

COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out

MODERNA - 6 MONTHS to 4 YEARS (BLUE CAP) VACCINE - GENERAL PRACTICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is for general practices to indicate their interest in supporting the administration of the Spikevax (Moderna) 6 months to 4 years (blue cap) vaccine for children.

This EOI is intended to identify participating general practices that are interested in administering the Moderna paediatric vaccine including for **at-risk children with immunocompromise, comorbidities and/or disability aged 6 months to 4 years** should this group be recommended as the initial cohort for inclusion in the COVID-19 vaccination program**.**

Primary care sites have been integral to the success of the rollout. As of 25 July 2022, over 61 million vaccinations have been administered across Australia, of which, more than 39 million (approx. 63%) have been administered through primary care settings.

As with other phases of the rollout, this is a collaboration between the Commonwealth Government and the state and territory Governments. It is anticipated that the state and territory Governments will continue to provide vaccination services and act as the main pathway for vaccination in this cohort. Primary care will play an important role in supporting this delivery model to provide an alternative vaccination pathway.

Practices selected to support the delivery model will be **prioritised** for selection based on:

- **Accreditation status**: Practices who are accredited **and** who administer National Immunisation Program (NIP) vaccines will be prioritised.
- **Location**: Broad geographic coverage including practices situated within areas of limited vaccine access.
- **Access for priority population groups**: Practices who currently service, or willing to actively support at risk populations, particularly children with immunocompromise, comorbidities and/or disability aged 6 months to 4 years.

This EOI is for the initial stage of the 6 month to 4 year program which may be a relatively small and selected cohort requiring a small number of selected vaccination sites. It may not be possible for all interested practices to be selected to administer the Moderna **(blue cap)** vaccine in the early stages.

Practices who are chosen to administer Moderna **(blue cap)** will be required to complete an additional training module. The Additional Module will not be available to participants until they have completed the core modules and the existing Module 3: Moderna (SPIKEVAX).

Details regarding the Moderna 6 months to 4 years (blue cap) vaccine

Moderna is an mRNA vaccine that does not require reconstitution. The Moderna **(blue cap)** vaccine is a two-dose primary course (potentially three doses for severely immunocompromised). It comes in vials of 10 (primary course) doses and an unopened thawed vial can be stored at 2°C to 8°C for a maximum of 30 days after thaw date.

The TGA has provisionally approved Moderna **(blue cap)**; however, its use in Australia is pending consideration from ATAGI and a decision of government.

It is anticipated that chosen practices will receive two orders of Moderna **(blue cap)** (the first order being for first doses and the second order for second doses at an interval agreed by ATAGI).

Important information for practices interested in administering Moderna 6 month to 4 years (blue cap) vaccine

Prior to receiving vaccine doses, sites may be required to complete the Moderna **(blue cap)** Site Readiness Declaration in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS).

It is a mandatory program requirement that all General Practices participating in the COVID vaccine rollout are listed on the Vaccine Clinic Finder (VCF). Sites will be required to use VCF Connect to add your **Moderna (people aged 6 months to 4 years) service** and include clinic opening times to your site profile. This service type will be available to add in VCF.

Selected practices will be encouraged to organise their appointments to allow for maximum vaccinations at a time.

Payments for administering 6 months to 4 years vaccinations

Payments for the vaccination of children aged 6 months to 4 years will remain the same as for the administration of other primary course doses.

General practices that are accredited and enrolled in the Practice Incentives Program (PIP) will receive an incentive payment of $10 per eligible child that has received both a first-dose and second-dose MBS COVID-19 vaccine suitability assessment service at the same practice.

Visit the Department's website for more information on the COVID-19 MBS Items.

Details for the Expression of Interest process Moderna 6 months – 4 years (blue cap) Vaccine

The EOI process opens from **Tuesday 26 July 2022** and closes **5 pm AEST on Friday 29 July 2022**

Practices will need to meet the minimum requirements for all COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) will coordinate this process within their regions, with general practices asked to confirm:

- that they are interested in receiving two orders of Moderna **(blue cap)** Vaccine;
- what their expected level of demand for this vaccine type is; and
- they meet the Moderna **(blue cap)** site requirements (at **Attachment A –** please note that this is similar to the Moderna **(red cap)** site requirements).

Please note, practices are **not likely** to receive an ongoing allocation of the Moderna **(blue cap)** vaccine.

Further advice on the ordering windows will be provided to selected practices once responses to this EOI have been received and reviewed.

Attachment A: Moderna site requirements

The following site readiness requirements for COVID-19 vaccination clinics have been developed by the Australian Government in consultation with expert advice from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and standards outlined in the Australian Immunisation Handbook. Identified sites must confirm compliance with the minimum requirements outlined below prior to placing an order for the Pfizer vaccine.

Sites will be required to complete the Moderna 6 months to 4 years **(Blue cap)** Vaccine Site Readiness Declaration in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration System (CVAS) as part of the on-boarding process.

Prior to receiving vaccine doses *You must meet at least one of the following refrigeration or freezer options, but at a minimum sufficient refrigerator storage capacity noting general practices will receive thawed Moderna vaccine:*	
1.	Sufficient low temperature freezer (-50˚C to -15˚C) storage capacity in line with projected and actual volumes of the Moderna 0-5 years vaccine to be administered.
2.	Sufficient refrigerator (2˚C to 8˚C) storage capacity in line with projected and actual volumes of the vaccine to be administered.
Administering vaccine doses	
3.	A documented procedure in place for managing and recording training of staff handling vaccine doses to ensure that vaccines are handled in a safe and lawful manner, including training relating to safe removal of vials from low temperature shippers, freezers and refrigerators, and compliance with any safety data sheets that have been provided to the site.
4.	Appropriate safety procedures and controls including safety equipment (PPE).
5.	Procedures in relation to any spillage/breakage of vials and other accidents. Wastage of vaccine doses and spills, including the reason for wastage/spills, must be reported to the Australian Government weekly via the Commonwealth COVID-19 Vaccine Administration System (CVAS), and if over 10 vials must be reported via the Major Wastage Form through CVAS or reported to the VOC immediately via phone to 1800 318 208.
6.	Appropriate procedures in place to notify the Australian Government immediately if any doses are stolen, diverted, tampered with, substituted, or otherwise subjected to abuse, misuse, neglect, negligence, accident, improper testing, improper storage, improper handling, abnormal physical stress, abnormal environmental conditions (including a failure of cold chain requirements) or use contrary to any handling and storage instructions.
7.	(a) Appropriate procedures in place to store the tampered with doses, (so they can be collected for testing, should the vaccination company formally request or contractually require it) (b) Reasonable documentation of incident including photos (recent Moderna requested pictures of incident)