Australian Government
Operation COVID Shield

COVID-19 VACCINATION

COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-out

MODERNA - GENERAL PRACTICE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is for general practices who are currently participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program to indicate their interest to receive an ongoing allocation of the Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine. This would be in addition to Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine and/or Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine allocations.

All interested participating general practices will have the opportunity to administer the Moderna vaccine.

Primary care sites have been integral to the success of the roll-out, with Australia tracking to reach the planned 80 per cent fully vaccinated benchmark by the first week of November. As at 27 October 2021, over 35 million vaccinations have been administered across Australia, of which, over half (approximately 19.5 million) have been administered through primary care.

To date, all participating general practices have already received an allocation of AstraZeneca, and are able to receive an allocation of Pfizer on request.

This EOI is intended to identify existing participating general practices who are interested in also receiving an allocation of the Moderna vaccine for primary course vaccinations.

Interested practices will receive an ongoing allocation of **200** doses per fortnight of Moderna (for first and second doses). Requests for a higher allocation will also be considered.

Moderna is a mRNA vaccine, similar to the Pfizer vaccine, but does not require reconstitution. It comes in vials of 10 doses and has a longer frozen shelf-life in that it can be stored for 7 months at -15˚C to -25˚C (or 30 days at 2˚C to 8˚C).This may better support practices in rural, regional and remote areas who have freezer capacity (noting normal freezer temperature is -18˚C).

Practices in rural, regional and remote areas (that are located around 8 hours or more away from a distribution hub), will be prioritised for frozen Moderna deliveries. Other requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

It should be noted that Moderna has not applied for regulatory authorisation to be used as a booster, so it cannot be used as a booster dose at this time. Pfizer is the preferred (and authorised) booster at this point, so Moderna can only be used for primary vaccination courses.

Expression of Interest

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

- are interested in receiving a Moderna allocation; and
- meet the Moderna site requirements (at **Attachment A –** please note that these are similar to the AstraZeneca/Pfizer site requirements).

This will be an ongoing process, with practices being transitioned as they express an interest.

Practices that indicate their interest to their PHN by midday Wednesday 3 November 2021, will be transitioned as early as possible. Further advice on the ordering windows will be provided to interested practices once responses to this EOI have been received.

If you are interested in receiving more than 200 doses per fortnight of Moderna, please contact your PHN to discuss. PHNs will collate this information for our consideration and modelling.

Attachment A: Moderna site requirements

Sites will be required to complete the Moderna 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:*	
1.	Sufficient low temperature freezer (-25˚C to -15˚C) storage capacity in line with projected and actual volumes of the Moderna 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 CVAS, and if over 5 vials must be reported to the VOC immediately via phone to 1800 318 208.
6.	Appropriate procedures in place to notify the Australian Government within 48 hours 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)