



COVID-19 VACCINATION

Transfer of COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccines between participating primary care vaccination sites

Primary care COVID-19 vaccination sites (including general practices, Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services, may choose to transfer **AstraZeneca** vaccines from one participating vaccination site to another for a range of reasons, including:

- to support unmet demand at another site,
- an oversupply of vaccine stock on hand, or
- unused stock following withdrawal from the COVID-19 Vaccination Program.

Transporting between sites is supported, provided both sites agree to the transfer and vaccine cold chain integrity is maintained during transportation. The Commonwealth cannot facilitate transportation of the vaccine between locations.

Primary Health Networks (PHNs) are available to provide support as needed, including identifying practices who may want an increase in supply. Vaccination sites planning to transfer stock are encouraged to contact their local PHN or Sector Support Organisation (SSO) to discuss.

Can I transfer vaccines to a non-participating site?

COVID-19 vaccine stock can only be transferred between **participating** COVID-19 vaccination sites. Stock cannot be transferred to a site that is not registered with the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. If you are unsure of whether a proposed site is participating or not, please contact your PHN.

Is there a limit for how much I can transfer?

You can transfer any stock you have on hand, however, only full, unopened vials should be transferred, and the receiving site must agree and accept the amount.

Does the Commonwealth need to approve each transfer?

The Commonwealth does not need to approve the transfer of stock between participating sites, but does need to be informed of the transfer to be able to track the doses. This can occur via the submission of *Stock Management Reports* (by both the receiving and transferring sites).

How do sites record the vaccine transfer?

Both transferring and receiving vaccination sites will need to record the transfer of **AstraZeneca** vaccines within their *Vaccine Stock Management Report* by 9pm Friday on the week the transfer has occurred. This includes additional stock that may have been received from the state or territory government.

The weekly *Stock Management Report* will be updated in the coming days to enable recording of vaccine transfer. This can be found in the Stock Management tab in CVAS.

Please ensure you complete your *Stock Management Report* every week by 9pm local time Friday. This must be completed each week, even if you are not transferring or receiving stock.

How should the COVID-19 vaccine be transported?

Both parties (transferring site and receiving site) should agree to the transportation arrangements, including for an appropriate amount of consumables (such as syringes, needles and sharps collectors) to be sent with the vaccine to the receiving site.

Sites should refer to [The National Vaccine Storage Guidelines](#) (Strive for 5) for information and advice on vaccine storage, including transportation. Sites should ensure all appropriate requirements for transport are met, including:

- maintaining and monitoring transportation temperature,
- sharing of relevant cold chain history, and
- ensuring that all people involved in vaccine transport have appropriate training and expertise to ensure that vaccines remain potent.

Only unopened vials should be transferred between sites.

What if vaccine wastage occurs while the vaccines are being transported?

Sites should take all reasonable precautions to minimise vaccine wastage.

Wastage of 5 or more vials must be reported to the Commonwealth by the responsible party, by calling the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) on 1800 318 208 and submitting a *Vaccine Wastage Report* in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Service (CVAS)

Wastage under 5 vials does not need to be reported immediately, but should be captured in the weekly *Vaccine Stock Management Report* in CVAS.

What if I am withdrawing from the COVID-19 Vaccination Program?

Providers who withdraw from the program are encouraged to administer all their vaccine stock where possible. If sites retain unused doses that they cannot administer, the PHN or SSO can assist to identify an alternate vaccination site for the remaining vaccines to be transported to.

Once transported, the withdrawing site should fill out their final *Vaccine Stock Management Report*. Future allocations for the withdrawn site will return to the vaccine stockpile for redistribution to other sites.