MANAGING EXCESS VACCINES

Thanks to the efforts of your team and other COVID-19 vaccination providers across Australia we have now administered over 30 million doses nation-wide.

As the rollout progresses, the Commonwealth is continuing to actively work with vaccination providers to manage excess vaccine stock on hand, and we encourage you to continue reaching out to your local connections to assist with identifying and transferring excess vaccines to sites that are able to use them. We've included some tips on stock management on the next page to assist with this.

If you are unable to relocate excess vaccines locally, please contact the Vaccine Operations Centre (VOC) from 7am to 10pm (AEDT) or emailing covid19vaccineoperationscentre@health.gov.au for assistance.

In some instances, the VOC will be able to arrange collection of excess doses for redistribution to another site. Proposed Collection Orders will be assessed for suitability, taking into consideration shelf life, time in transit, clinic location and you will need to provide VOC with details about your excess stock, including *Batch No.; Expiry Date and Number of doses,* as part of this assessment.

Once assessed, you will receive a notification email confirming collection, or with disposal instructions.

When assessing the suitability of stock for collection, please note that we can only accept:

Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) - 20 vials or more

Comirnaty (Pfizer) - 10 vials or more

Spikevax (Moderna) - 10 vials or more

Expired stock
If you have been unable to redirect your stock and the stock expires, please report the wastage through CVAS. Waste needs to be disposed of in accordance with the mandatory training, and vials must be disposed of in the provided sharps container to ensure they cannot be accessed.

Additional Assistance
Information to support allocations, storage and handling of vaccinations, including managing stock transfers, is available on the Department's website on the COVID-19 vaccination advice for vaccine providers webpage.

COVID-19 VACCINATION

Handy stock management tips
- complete your weekly stock on hand report, including noting where you may not be able to use all your current stock on hand;
- monitor your throughput and demand, and only order the vaccines you expect to use (or source from another site who has excess);
- remember that you can order **up to** your maximum allocation in the COVID-19 Vaccine Administrative System (CVAS), and this is an option to help ensure you have appropriate stock levels.

Local solutions
If you have excess stock, you should look for local solutions first. This could include:
- contacting your patient list and offer appointments;
- contacting your clinical network, for example other registered vaccine administration sites in your area;
- contacting your local co-ordinator who may be able to assist to identify another site in the region who may need excess doses.

Please ensure any transfer meets storage and transportation requirements as outlined below (**National Vaccine Storage Guidelines 'Strive for 5'**) and record the details in your *Vaccine Stock Management Report* in CVAS.

Transferring doses to another site
Vaccination providers can transfer stock to other participating providers who are enabled for the same vaccine type as your site, as per guidelines below.

The following transfers can occur:
- **Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca)** doses can be transferred between general practices, CVCs, ACCHS, community pharmacies or state and territory clinics.
- **Comirnaty (Pfizer)** doses can be transferred between general practices, CVCs, ACCHS or state and territory clinics.
- **Spikevax (Moderna)** doses can be transferred between community pharmacies or state and territory clinics.

When transferring stock, it is important to note:

- 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.
- All practices must be enabled for the same vaccine type (as above), and have signed the respective declaration form in the CVAS before receiving stock.
- All transfers must follow pre-existing transit-time, maintain cold chain and vaccines should be stored and transported in accordance with product information.
- Both transferring and receiving sites need to record the stock transfer in their CVAS Vaccine Stock Management Reports.
- Only full, unopened vials can be transferred (vaccine doses which have already been prepared for administration should not be redistributed between sites).

More information about transferring vaccine stock is available on the Department of Health's website.