

Covid-19 Vaccine Questions & Answers:

Question:		Resource
When will the vaccine be available?	We are expecting the Pfizer vaccine to be ready for administration mid-February and the AstraZeneca approximately 1 month later.	National Cabinet Media – Roadmap 7/1/21
Is there any advice on how we are to store vaccines?	<p>The Australian Government has secured agreements for the supply of three promising COVID-19 vaccines, provided they prove to be safe and effective. There are plans for both the Pfizer vaccine (requiring ultra-cold chain storage of -70 degrees) and AstraZeneca (requiring storage of between 2 and 8 degrees.</p> <p>For now, practices should ensure that their cold chain management complies with minimum requirements for both National Standards and NSW Standards</p>	National & NSW Cold Chain Guidelines National Cabinet Media – Roadmap 7/1/21
Are GPs going to be administering COVID-19 vaccines?	The Australian Covid-19 vaccine policy clearly identifies primary care to be at the core of the Covid vaccination rollout. The reason for this as stated in the policy is that primary care is the major site of immunisation in Australia, having well established protocols for vaccination and a well-trained workforce.	Australian COVID-19 Vaccine Policy
How do practices manage post vaccination supervision while maintaining social distancing?	Any vaccination site would need to be a facility where appropriate post vaccination monitoring and after care can be provided, taking into consideration appropriate social distancing measures. See NSW Health resource	Vaccination Clinics Implementation during COVID-19 response
Can COVID and flu vaccines be given together on same day?	The implementation plan states Covid vaccine is to be given in isolation of other vaccines.	ATAGI Advisory Group

<p>Do patients need to be COVID negative to have COVID vaccination?</p>	<p>A comprehensive pre-vaccination screening process is important prior to giving any vaccine. Vaccination for all vaccines should be deferred if a patient is unwell with acute febrile illness (current temperature $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) or have acute systemic illness. To avoid an adverse event in an already unwell person, or to avoid attributing symptoms to vaccination.</p>	<p>Australian Immunisation Handbook</p>
<p>How often do you have to do the HETI vaccine storage and cold chain course – is it once or yearly?</p>	<p>The HETI NSW Health online module "Vaccine storage and Cold chain management" only needs to be completed once, with certificate to be kept on file in case your practice is audited by NSW Health. It is recommended that all staff complete module, including reception staff.</p>	<p>NSW Health online module</p>