

COVID-19 vaccine comparison

VERSION 6	Comirnaty (30mcg) 12+ years Pfizer/BioNTech	Comirnaty Paediatric (10mcg) 5-11 years Pfizer/BioNTech	Nuvaxovid (5mcg) Novavax
Vial cap colour	Purple	Orange	Blue
Technology	mRNA	mRNA	Recombinant protein vaccine
Eligibility	≥12 years <i>Comirnaty is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for use in NZ, reflecting its excellent safety and efficacy profile</i>	5-11 years	≥12 years
Primary Schedule	2 doses administrated 3-8 weeks apart	2 doses administrated 3-8 weeks apart	2 doses administrated 3-8 weeks apart
Severe immunocompromised	3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose	3rd primary dose available 8 weeks after 2nd dose	Currently not approved, discuss use as a 3rd primary dose with IMAC
Booster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≥18 years – 1st booster 3-6 months after primary course 16-17 years – 1st booster 6 months after primary course ≥16 years – 2nd booster is recommended for those at increased risk of severe illness administered at least 6 months after 1st booster (see eligibility criteria) 	N/A	Boosters available for those >18 yrs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st booster administered 6 months after primary course 2nd booster is recommended for those at increased risk of severe illness administered at least 6 months after 1st booster (see eligibility criteria)
Who can administer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed) COVID-19 Vaccinators Working Under Supervision and Vaccinating Health Workers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course and Paediatric COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prescribers Authorised/provisional vaccinators (after COVID-19 Vaccinator Education course and Nuvaxovid COVID-19 Vaccine course completed)
Pregnancy	Safe to administer during any stage of pregnancy or conception	N/A	Insufficient data, not recommended in pregnancy. If Comirnaty is contraindicated, contact 0800 IMMUNE
Breastfeeding	Yes	N/A	Contact 0800 IMMUNE for specialist advice
Written consent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal consent for 1st, 2nd or booster doses Written consent required for 3rd primary dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal consent by legal guardian for 1st and 2nd dose Written consent required for 3rd primary dose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written or verbal consent for 1st, 2nd or booster doses Written consent required if used as 3rd primary dose, mixed schedule primary course
Prescription required	For 3rd primary dose or any dose outside of recommended schedule	For 3rd primary dose or any dose outside of recommended schedule	For mixed schedule of COVID-19 vaccines, 3rd primary dose or any dose outside of recommended schedule
Appearance	Clear to off-white, particle free	Clear to off-white, particle free	Colourless to slightly yellow, clear to mildly opalescent suspension free from visible particles
Dilution	Must dilute with 1.8mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use	Must dilute with 1.3mL sodium chloride 0.9% prior to use	No dilution required
Doses per vial	6 doses per vial (5 or 7 doses per vial acceptable dependent on needle selection)	10-12 doses per vial (dependent on needle selection)	10 doses per vial
Injection volume	0.3 mL	0.2 mL	0.5mL
Syringe/needle	1mL syringe with 25-38mm, 21-25G standard or LDS needle	Sol-M 1ml syringe + 25G 16mm needle (comes attached) or 25G 25mm non-LDS needle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1mL FluPlus syringes with permanently attached 23G 25mm needle If longer needle required, use 1mL syringe plus 38mm 21-25G needle
Travel time restrictions	Maximum 12 hours transport time of undiluted vaccine from freezer storage	No transport time consideration	No transport time consideration
Refrigerator (+2°C to +8°C)	Undiluted 31 days. Always follow use by date on box	Undiluted 10 weeks. Always follow use by date on box	Follow use by date on box [may be later than on vial]
Room temperature (+2°C to +30°C)	Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, or 6 hours from adding diluent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable for 2 hours prior to adding diluent, 12 hours from adding diluent Doses kept in syringes may be stored for up to 6 hours cumulatively 	Opened: up to 6 hours (+2°C to +25°C)
Use by (ie, administer to patient)	Must use by 6 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C)	Must use by 6 hours from time diluent added (+2°C to +30°C)	Must be used within 6 hours from first opening vial

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