

To the Point

HNELHD Immunisation Newsletter

August 2021

CONTENTS

- Congratulations Patrick
- Education session Wednesday 18 Aug 2021 6.30-8pm
- Importance of continuing childhood vaccines
- The importance of routine childhood immunisation during a pandemic
- ATAGI clinical advice on mixed COVID vaccine schedules
- Updates to the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker
- The importance of a recommendation from maternity care providers in increasing the uptake of vaccination
- COVID vaccine advice for pregnant & breastfeeding women
- New online immunisation course from South Australia
- One-stop shop for the latest COVID-19 information and resources.
- Link to NCIRS webinar on mandatory COVID-19 vaccines

ATTACHMENTS

- Heterologous ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 and mRNA-1273 Vaccination
- Who, What, Why and How of COVID AEFI education session

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Congratulations Patrick Cashman

Every 2 years the Public Health Association of Australia acknowledges an outstanding national contributor in the field of immunisation. This year our very own Patrick Cashman was the very worthy recipient.

Patrick is an amazing nurse and leader. As Patrick said in his acceptance speak (whilst wearing shorts and a tie at the beach) these awards are rarer than an Oscar!



If you would like to see Patrick in action, check in for the **live education session on Wednesday August 18 2021 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**. It is online and free, click here to register.

[Education Events - Primary Health Network \(thephn.com.au\)](https://thephn.com.au)

Who, What, Why and How of COVID Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI)

The COVID-19 vaccine rollout is a very dynamic space with regular changes. It can be difficult to keep up with vaccine recommendations and expected and unexpected reactions. Please join us for this very important information session with A Prof Michael Boyle (Adult Immunologist) A Prof Nicholas Wood from NCIRS a special guest from the Belmont Hub and of course Patrick Cashman! More details and how to register on the link above.

NSW Health advice regarding the importance of continuing childhood vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic

NSW Health is offering a friendly reminder to immunisation providers that it is essential that children continue to receive their recommended vaccines on the National Immunisation Program during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This will protect them and the broader community from preventable diseases and is necessary for families to meet eligibility requirements for Australian Government family assistance payments and to enrol children in child care in NSW.

NSW Health has developed advice to support immunisation providers to safely offer immunisation services during COVID-19 which is available on the [NSW Health](https://www.nsw.gov.au/health) website.

Leaving home to attend medical appointments is permitted under the lockdown restrictions currently in place.



COVID-19
VACCINATION

ATAGI clinical advice on use of a different COVID-19 vaccine as the second dose in special circumstances

30 July 2021

<https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2021/08/covid-19-vaccination-clinical-advice-on-the-use-of-a-different-covid-19-vaccine-as-the-second-dose.pdf>

Summary of advice

COVID-19 vaccines that are currently registered and available for use in Australia are:

- Comirnaty (Pfizer) – registered for use in people aged 12 years or over
- COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca – registered for use in people aged 18 years or over.

ATAGI recommends to use the same COVID-19 vaccine for the two doses of the primary vaccination course, unless there are specific medical contraindications or precautions, or the same vaccine brand is not available in Australia.

This advice explains:

- the medical contraindications and serious vaccine-attributable adverse events after dose 1 of a COVID-19 vaccine that warrant using an alternative vaccine brand for dose 2
- the medical conditions that mean that Comirnaty is recommended over COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
- the recommendations for completing the primary vaccination course for people who have received dose 1 with a vaccine that is not available in Australia.

Updates to the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker are now live and include:

- Pregnant women prioritised to receive Pfizer
- Updated content to prioritise Registered Aged Care Facility workers getting vaccinated
- Updated eligibility to include 12-15year olds with underlying medical conditions and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to enable them to access Pfizer
- Removed reference to COVID-19 vaccine intervals on different vaccine types with the updated advice from ATAGI on intervals being more flexible in outbreak areas

Visit the [Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#) for further information.

Influenza vaccination among pregnant women in two hospitals in Sydney, NSW: what we can learn from women who decline vaccination

[Influenza vaccination among pregnant women in two hospitals in Sydney, NSW: what we can learn from women who decline vaccination | PHRP](#)

Conclusion: Recommendations from maternity care providers remain key to a woman's decision to be vaccinated for influenza during pregnancy. Time should be allocated for vaccine discussions early in pregnancy as part of routine care. Continued efforts are needed to improve messaging to pregnant women on the benefits, safety and efficacy of influenza vaccination

[COVID-19 vaccine – New pregnancy advice for women who received their first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and are now pregnant](#)

[RANZCOG - Info for Pregnant Women](#)

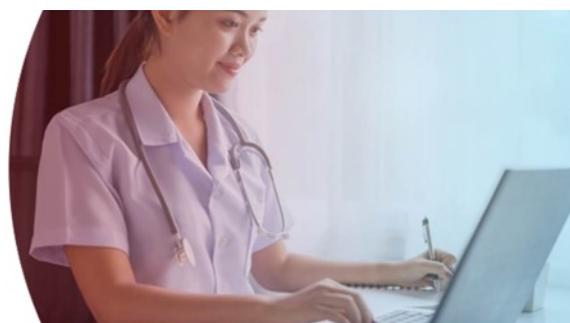
NEW ONLINE IMMUNISATION COURSE FROM SA HEALTH

[Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program | SA Health](#)

The course is over 20 weeks and is expected to take 70 hours at a cost of \$225.

We will follow up with information regarding the approval of this course to be recognised in NSW

COVID-19 vaccination - summary for immunisation providers



This page provides an all-in-one-place summary of new and updated information and advice on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination program to assist immunisation providers. Each section contains links to further detailed information. We will be updating this page as new information becomes available. **(Last updated: 13 August 2021)**

You can also download a PDF version of this resource [here](#). (You will need an Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this file.)

Check here for the most current updates [COVID-19 vaccination - summary for immunisation providers | NCIRS](#)

Also see - [NCIRS COVID-19 vaccines: Frequently asked questions](#) for answers to most commonly asked questions. The FAQs are updated regularly.

Includes:

NEW questions

Questions about vaccination program

Questions about getting vaccinated

Questions about vaccine safety - General

Questions about vaccine safety - Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia (TTS)

Questions about vaccine safety - other conditions

Questions about vaccine development

Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination - NCIRS Webinar

[COSSI webinar video now available: Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination | NCIRS](#)

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the main tool for bringing the world out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mandatory vaccination has been debated as a strategy to get high vaccination coverage and protect individuals in certain settings. This webinar considered the policy, behavioural, ethical and epidemiological aspects of mandating COVID-19 vaccination.

- find out what vaccination mandates are, who they may be used for and how they could be delivered
 - hear about the governance and political aspects of vaccination mandates
 - hear about epidemiological, behavioural and social considerations of mandates, including effectiveness
- hear about ethical considerations of vaccine mandates for adults.