

17 November 2021

Dear Healthcare Professional

Supply of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca (ChAdOx1-S) in New Zealand

AstraZeneca New Zealand Limited will commence supply of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca from 18 November 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is indicated for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 caused by SARS-CoV-2 in individuals 18 years of age and older. The use of this vaccine should be in accordance with official recommendations.

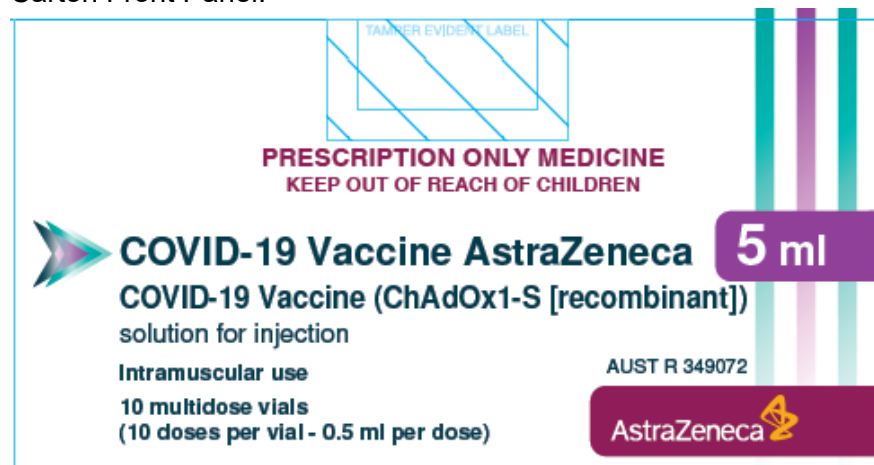
Please find below practical information regarding this vaccine.

Identification, Number of Doses and Labelling

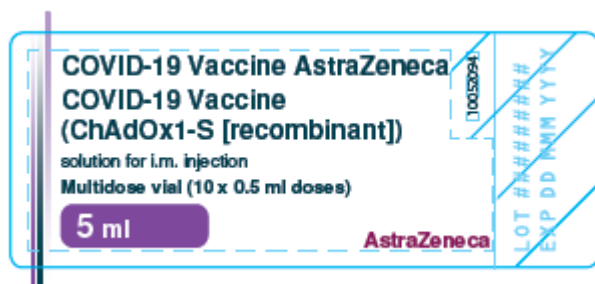
COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca solution for injection is supplied in 5 mL multidose vials with a red flip-off cap. One vial contains 10 x 0.5mL doses. There are 10 vials (100 doses) per carton .

The product is labelled as follows:

Carton Front Panel:



Vial Label:



Dosing Information

The approved New Zealand Data Sheet for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca includes the following information under section 4.2 – Dose and Method of Administration:

The COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca vaccination course consists of two separate doses of 0.5 mL each. The second dose should be administered between 4 and 12 weeks after the first dose.

Using an aseptic technique, each vaccine dose of 0.5 ml is withdrawn into a syringe for injection to be administered intramuscularly. Use a separate sterile needle and syringe for each individual.

Each vial contains at least the number of doses stated. It is normal for liquid to remain in the vial after withdrawing the final dose. When low dead volume syringes and/or needles are used, the amount remaining in the vial may be sufficient for an additional dose. Care should be taken to ensure a full 0.5 ml dose is administered. Where a full 0.5 ml dose cannot be extracted, the remaining volume should be discarded. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials.

Please refer to the full New Zealand Data Sheet for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca for further information available on the Medsafe website.

Administration

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is for intramuscular (IM) injection only, preferably in the deltoid muscle.

Storage Requirements.

Unopened vials are to be stored in a refrigerator at 2-8°C.

The vaccine does not contain any preservative. After first opening, use the vial within:

- 6 hours when stored at room temperature (up to 30°C), or
- 48 hours when stored in a refrigerator (2 to 8°C).

The vial can be re-refrigerated, but the cumulative storage time at room temperature must not exceed 6 hours, and the total cumulative storage time must not exceed 48 hours. After this time, the vial must be discarded.

There is limited information available in relation to the storage of the vaccine in syringes. For practical reasons, if the contents of the vial are to be used within a short period of time, drawing up the content in multiple syringes at once may be considered. Vaccine in syringes may be kept for up to 6 hours when stored at room temperature (up to 30°C). However, ensure that the cumulative storage time at room temperature from the first vial puncture to last dose administration does not exceed 6 hours. After this time, the syringe must be discarded.

For additional information regarding COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, please refer to the New Zealand Data Sheet on the Medsafe website or contact AstraZeneca by phone (0800 684 432) or visit [azcovid-19.com](https://www.azcovid-19.com).

Yours faithfully



Dr Carla Swemmer

Senior Medical Director, Australia and New Zealand