



Appendix 4: Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine multi dose vial syringe 0.3mL preparation

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Purpose

This document explains the process of preparing dose syringes from the COVID-19 Pfizer multi-dose vials (MDV). This includes the consumables required and step-by-step directions accompanied by photographs.

Important Information

- ATAGI has released guidance on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in multidose vials. It is up to vaccination providers to use the most appropriate method for each setting/situation. Routine practice involves drawing up and injecting with separate needles however an acceptable alternative recommended by ATAGI involves drawing up and injecting with the **same** needle. This is recommended by the Victorian Department of Health (DH) for the preparation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to avoid the risk of under-dosing and is outlined in this document. (note: this risk does not apply to administration of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine)
- Use a new, sterile 23G or 25G 25mm length needle (or 23G/25G 38mm needle for people who are obese) and 1 mL syringe to draw up each new 0.3 mL dose by re-puncturing the bung.
- Ensure each re-puncture occurs at a different site on the bung.
- Recap the clean needle using either a single-handed technique, forceps, or a suitable protective guard designed for re-sheathing. The needle must be properly recapped, and the sheath must not be held in the fingers.
- In the event of a needle stick injury during recapping, the needle and syringe must be discarded and incident recorded.






Consumable Required for Each Pfizer MDV Prepared




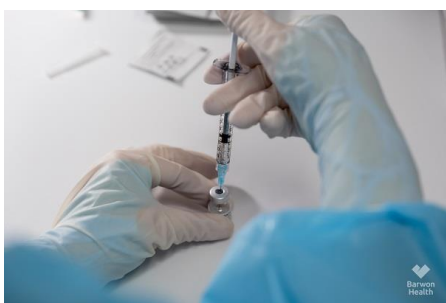

- 1x sodium chloride 0.9% 10mL ampoule
- 1x 3mL syringe
- 7x single use 70% alcohol swabs
- 6x 1mL (syringe)
- 7x 23G or 25G 25mm length needle (or 23G/25G 38mm needle for people who are obese)

Throughout the procedure, continue to perform a visual check of the solution and check for contamination. Quarantine the vial and dose syringes if particulates or discolouration are present.

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Recommended Step-by-Step Process

<p>1</p>		<p>Initial set up for aseptic prep space. Required consumables and vial with 'use by' marked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performed hand hygiene and don appropriate PPE. • Prepare aseptic workspace and assemble required consumables. • Mark dilution / use by date and time – this is to be done prior to the vial being handed to the technician for preparation Suggestion to add small vial label with “Dilutant added Date___ Time____. Discard 6hrs after dilution 6-30°C”
<p>2</p>		<p>Concentrated vial being inverted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowly invert the vial 10 times to thoroughly mix the concentrate suspension, DO NOT SHAKE.
<p>3</p>		<p>Vial bung being wiped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wipe the vial stopper with a single use 70% alcohol swab and allow to dry.
<p>4</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3mL syringe attached to sodium chloride polyamp • Draw up 1.8 mL of sodium chloride 0.9% into a 3mL syringe by attaching syringe directly to polyamp. Attach and prime a needle.
<p>5</p>		<p>3mL syringe puncturing vial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowly add the 1.8mL of sodium chloride 0.9% down the side of the vial ensuring entire contents transferred. • Equalise vial pressure by withdrawing 1.8 mL of air into empty diluent syringe before removing the needle from the vial. • Place diluent ampoule and 3mL syringe in injection tray for checking. • The diluted vaccine, in the vial can be stored or transported at room temperatures of up to 30°C for up to 6 hours.* <p>*Therapeutic Goods Administration <https://www.tga.gov.au/media-release/wider-storage-and-transportation-conditions-pfizer-covid-19-vaccine-now-approved></p>

6		<p>Diluted vial being inverted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowly invert the vial 10 times to mix contents thoroughly, DO NOT SHAKE.
7		<p>Vial bung being wiped</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wipe the diluted vial stopper with a single use 70% alcohol swab and allow to dry.
8		<p>1mL syringe with needle attached</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Firmly attach a needle to a 1mL syringe, draw up 0.3mL of air.
9		<p>1mL syringe/ needle puncturing vial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puncture the bung of the diluted vial, equalising pressure by injecting the air into the vial.
10		<p>Inverted vial + 1mL syringe / needle withdrawing dose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up 0.3 mL of the diluted vaccine into the 1mL syringe • Adjust to remove air bubbles. • Check volume withdrawn is 0.3mL.

More Information and Resources

- Victorian Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>
- Public Health Emergency Order (PHEOs) and Secretary's Approvals: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorian-covid-19-vaccination-guidelines>
- Commonwealth Department of Health COVID-19 information: health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines
- Victorian Department of Health COVID-19 vaccine information: [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

Contact Us

For more information on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines in Victoria, contact the Victorian Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Preparedness Unit by emailing COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au <COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au>.

To receive this document in another format, phone 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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