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Subject: PAPERS: National COVID-19 Vaccine Program Board | 24 April 2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 17 April 2024 3:15:57 PM
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 National COVID-19 Vaccine Program Board - Meeting Papers - 24 April 2024.pdf

Dear Members

Please find attached the papers for the National Covid 19 Vaccine Program Board convening on Wednesday, 24 April 2024. The papers can also be found in the following SharePoint link: [The National COVID-19 Vaccine Program Board - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](#).

If you have any questions or are unable to attend and require to send a proxy , please inform the Secretariat at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards
Program Management Office

**Program Management Office
Vaccine Policy Branch**

National COVID-19 Vaccine Program Division | Health Resourcing Group
Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
Location: Scarborough House Lvl 10
GPO Box 9848, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

The Department of Health and Aged Care acknowledges First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to all Elders both past and present.

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Members endorsed forward work plan with additional topics.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Periodic updates on the following topics to be included in the forward work plan:**
 - **COVID-19 epidemiology**
 - **COVID-19 Response Inquiry & other relevant government decisions**
 - **New product submissions to TGA**

Agenda item 3: National COVID-19 Vaccine Program Update

Led by: Dave McNally

Reviewed by: Kelly Fisher

The dashboard, roadmap and risks and issues report were tabled, and members were informed:

- The dashboard is a very high level summary of the key features of the program, linked to the monthly Health Tracker reporting that is provided to the Minister, and can be tailored to any other interests or data.
- The roadmap is a snapshot of where the program is at, and signals where some impending pressures may lie.
- ATAGI are in the final stages of considering a 2024 recommendation for COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Communications will be targeted to groups that are most at risk and informed by a rapid review of the 2023 booster rollout. The rapid review will be shared with members when finalised.
- There is a supply gap of Novavax due to manufacturer availability; Novavax are undergoing a TGA approval process for their XBB vaccine.

Members discussed:

- Work is underway to tailor communications for at risk population cohorts including First Nations, and the Division will reach out to relevant work areas in coming weeks.
- Communications need to be targeted and specific, noting community sentiment reporting indicates increasing vaccine fatigue.
- The dashboard provides a useful oversight of the program, including data on number of people vaccinated, stock on hand and wastage; it would be useful to have other data as well.
- The 2024-25 budget submission may affect the program's overall risk rating (currently green).

ACTION ITEMS:

- **Share the Rapid Review report with members once finalised**
- **Share the weekly data sheets with members**
- **Review the risk rating in relation to the 2024-25 budget submission**

Prior to agenda item 4 commencing, the Chair thanked s22 (Grosvenor Performance Group) for attending the meeting, and s22 left the call.

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National COVID-19 Vaccine Program (NCVP) Dashboard – March2024

Delivery Confidence: Med/High

Trending: GREEN

FOI 25-26/027 - Document 2

Overall Program Status: GREEN

Maintaining Critical NCVP elements

Senior Responsible Officer: Anna Peatt

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Vaccine Supply Workstream:

- Vaccines remain in a surplus of supply to approximately mid-2026.
- Forecasted supply gaps of Novavax s22

vaccines are currently being managed with healthcare professionals. s22

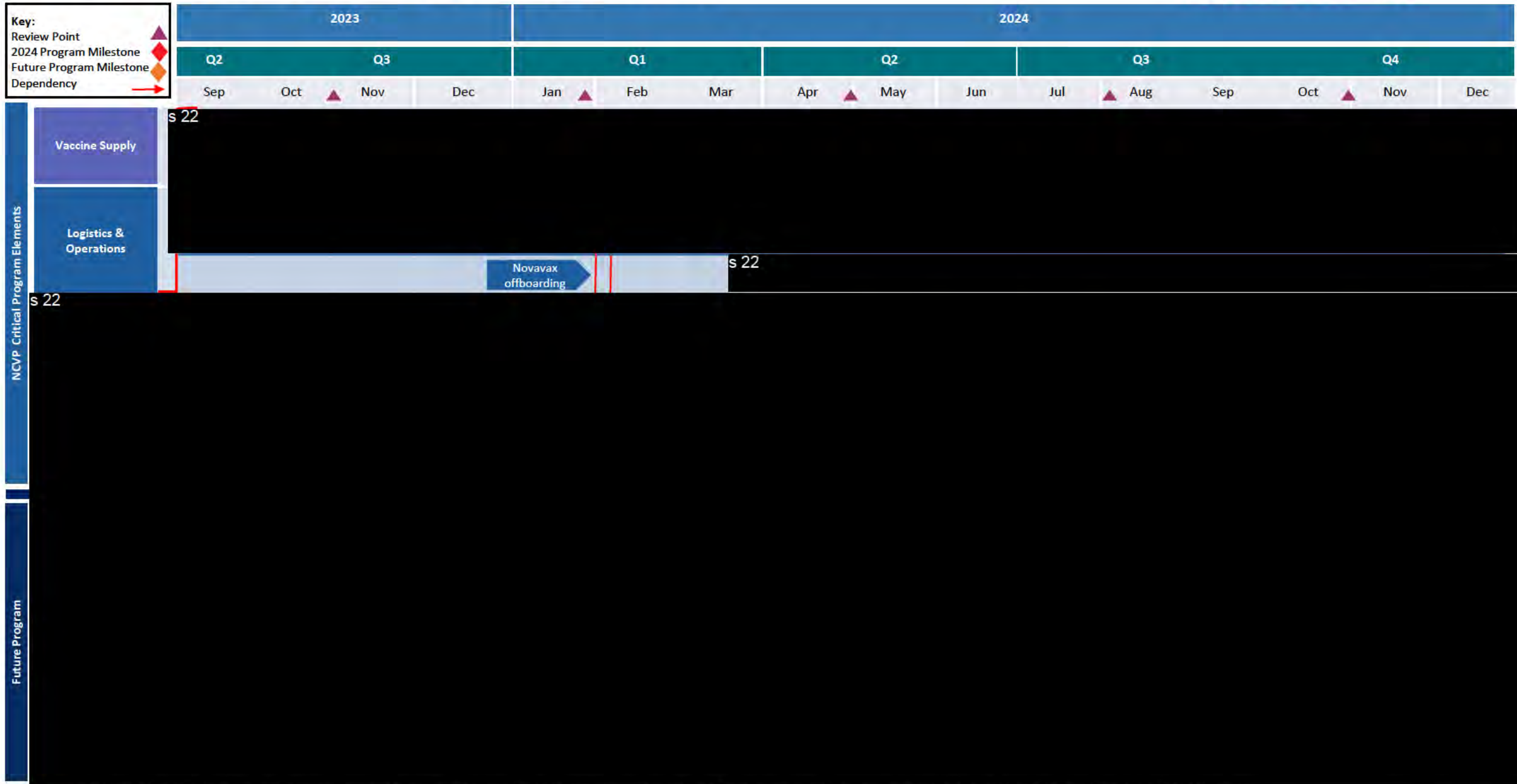
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Program Data Set Highlights - Derived from weekly data sheets (11 April 2024) & the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Report (health.gov.au)

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Tier 1 - National COVID-19 Vaccine Program (NCVP) Roadmap

FOI 25-26/027 - Document 2



Data available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19/case-numbers-and-statistics>

COVID-19 vaccinations

- Approximately 1,842,000 people aged 18+ years have had a COVID-19 vaccination within the past six months.
- Over 69,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered over the last 7 days, which is approximately 36,000 more than the week prior. 2% of these doses were bivalent doses, 93% were XBB 1.5 doses and 96% have also been Boosters.
- Since the start of 2023, over 70% of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered have been Pfizer Comirnaty, and over 29% have been Moderna Spikevax. The remaining doses have been Novavax Nuvaxovid or administered overseas.
- Since October 2022, over 1,558,000 Moderna Bivalent doses have been administered. Since December 2022, over 3,208,000 Pfizer Bivalent doses have been administered.
- Since December 2023, approximately 422,000 Moderna XBB 1.5 doses and over 826,000 Pfizer XBB 1.5 doses have been administered.

COVID-19 treatments

- COVID-19 oral antiviral treatments nirmatrelvir and ritonavir (Paxlovid) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio) are available through the PBS for treatment and to reduce the need for hospital admission.
- Since 24 October 2022 over 1,093,360 COVID-19 oral antiviral prescriptions have been dispensed across all age groups with approximately two thirds (66%) dispensed to people aged 70-99 years under the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.
- Over 39,430 prescriptions were dispensed in March compared to over 50,680 prescriptions in February for COVID-19 oral antiviral medications.

COVID-19 impact on hospitals

- The national average number of COVID-19 cases admitted to hospitals each day for March 2024 was 73 patients compared to 146 patients in February 2024. This represents a month-on-month decrease of approximately 50%.
 - *Please note, NSW ceased notifying of COVID-19 cases admitted to hospital on 5 March 2024. Excluding NSW data, cases admitted to hospital decreased by 33% (105 to 70 cases admitted each day).*
- In critical care, there was a daily average of 43 COVID-19 related cases in ICU for March 2024, compared to 39 cases in February 2024.

Reporting across all jurisdictions may be impacted by recent public holidays. Methodologies across jurisdictions for capturing COVID-19 hospitalisation vary.

