

# Pharmacy injects the fun into Pfizer vaccine training

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## Background

The COVID-19 vaccines provided relief to the community after extended periods of lockdowns and restrictions in the pandemic.

Initially, vaccine preparation only involved pharmacists at our state-run vaccination hubs. However, as vaccine demand increased, staff from various health professions were trained up to assist in order to keep up with the lines of eligible patients.

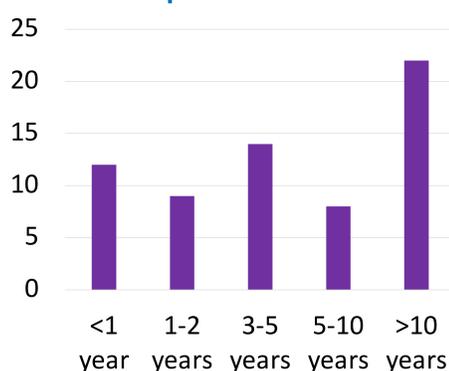
## Aim

To provide comprehensive training to health professionals in the preparation of COVID-19 vaccines.

## Methods

Education was led by a team of pharmacists to teach new staff. These included registered nurses, enrolled nurses, paramedics and health science students. There was a large spectrum of experience in their respective fields.

### Years of experience in the profession



The pharmacy team instituted the "2, 2, 2" style of training:

- ✓ Observing 2 vials being prepared by an experienced staff member
- ✓ Reconstituting and drawing up doses with correct aseptic technique on 2 previously used vials
- ✓ Successfully preparing at least 2 vials worth of vaccines under supervision

Pfizer vials were the training vial of choice for several reasons. Firstly, it was the most sought-after vaccine at our vaccination hub, so we required as many hands as possible to prepare them. Secondly, they were more complicated to prepare in comparison to the other vaccines. Once the staff were successfully trained up to prepare Pfizer vials, they would need little guidance to prepare others.

## Results

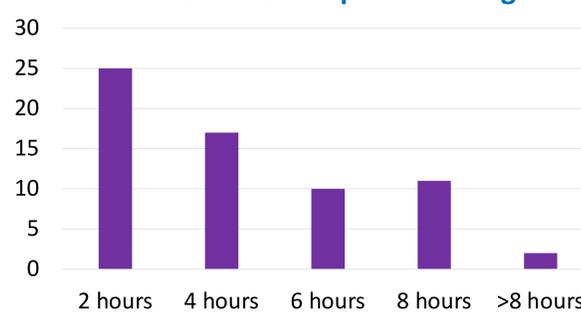
A confidential survey was distributed to staff in order to evaluate the success of pharmacist-led education in vaccine preparation.

65 responses were obtained in which 100% were trained in Pfizer vaccine preparation. 40% were also trained in the preparation of Moderna and 60% in the AstraZeneca vaccine.

74% of respondents reported being not confident or somewhat confident in vaccine preparation and required training. Post-training, 80% of respondents were extremely confident in vaccine preparation and did not require further supervision.

Respondents found the "2,2,2" method of training to be effective; 97% were successfully accredited within a day of training.

### Time taken to complete training



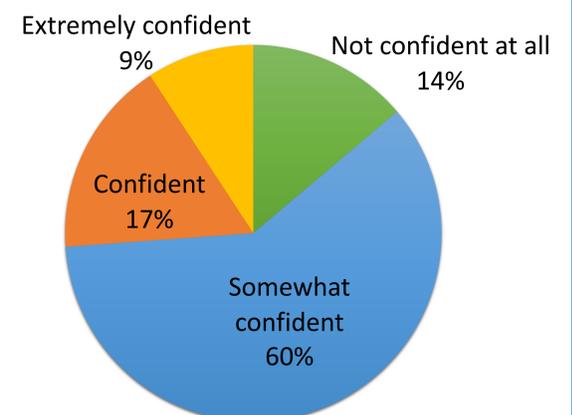
Respondents gave the training an overall rating of 4.89 out of 5.

84% stated they learnt skills transferable to other areas within their profession.

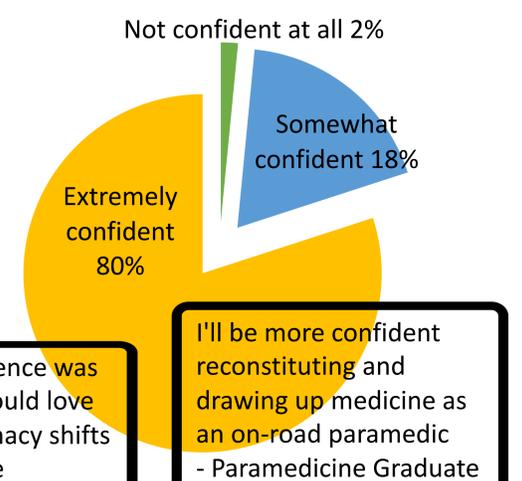
Further to this, 100% of respondents were agreeable to return to the pharmacy to aid in vaccination preparation.

Finally, 83% stated involvement in pharmacy improved their experience working at the state-run vaccination hubs.

### Confidence in COVID-19 vaccine preparation prior to training



### Confidence in COVID-19 vaccine preparation after training



My overall experience was fantastic, and I would love to do more pharmacy shifts - Registered Nurse

I'll be more confident reconstituting and drawing up medicine as an on-road paramedic - Paramedicine Graduate



## Discussion

The "2,2,2" method of training run by the pharmacy team was a safe and effective method of teaching. It allowed confident trainees to expedite training, while those who needed more time could be supervised and practice for longer. The "2,2,2" method could be modified as necessary to meet the needs of each staff member.

The trainees could watch multiple other people in vaccine preparation if needed, and then practice in quick succession. A hands-on approach allowed the learning to be re-enforced in quick succession whilst still having guidance available.

## Conclusion

This demonstrates the success of pharmacist-led education in a statewide setting. It highlights the importance of pharmacist involvement and education in a multi-disciplinary team, and that pharmacists can also assist other health professionals upskill in their respective work practices.

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