



COVID-19 Vaccine

THE FACTS



CITY OF
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COVID-19 Vaccine: The Facts

Getting the COVID-19 Vaccine:

Reduces your risk of getting sick with COVID-19



Protects you against becoming very sick if you do get COVID-19



Helps to protect your friends, family and community



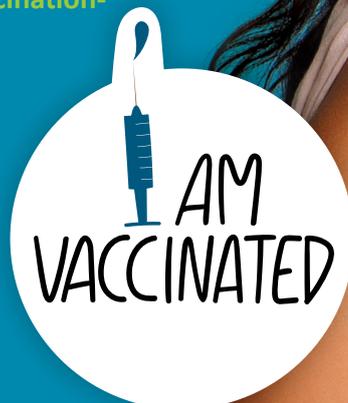
If most people are vaccinated, the virus can't spread as easily. This also protects people who can't get vaccinated.

About the COVID-19 Vaccines

People eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination are advised to do so as soon as possible. With new COVID-19 vaccine developments every day, it's normal to have questions about safety and availability.

The two vaccines that have been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration require two doses. Both are administered at no cost to those who are eligible in Australia.

- Information on COVID-19 Pfizer (Comirnaty) Vaccine
www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-information-on-covid-19-pfizer-comirnaty-vaccine
- Information on COVID-19 AstraZeneca Vaccine
www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/covid-19-vaccination-information-on-covid-19-astrazeneca-vaccine





Were COVID-19 vaccines developed too quickly to be safe?

COVID-19 vaccines have been developed without compromising quality, safety and effectiveness.

It may appear they have been developed very quickly, but researchers around the world have been working hard to develop COVID-19 vaccines from the earliest stages of the pandemic.

They have been able to speed up development of vaccines thanks to the collaboration between research teams, scientists, manufacturers and distributors.

The development and implementation planning phases have been run side by side instead of one after the other. This has been made possible because of unprecedented global funding. In addition, research into how to respond to a pandemic started long before COVID-19.

This research looks at data from previous coronaviruses such as SARS in 2002 and MERS in 2012, giving researchers a head start when it comes to building the COVID-19 vaccines.

In Australia, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has been rigorously assessing the potential COVID-19 vaccines for safety, quality and effectiveness. It will continue to do this with all vaccines before they are approved and made available to Australians.

Once approved, each batch must also be checked to make sure it meets the same quality standards.



Vaccine safety is continuously monitored

The TGA will continuously monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines as they are rolled out in Australia and internationally.

Healthcare professionals contribute to ongoing monitoring by informing the TGA of any side effects, even if they are very minor.

This means the TGA can oversee the safety of a vaccine across the country and, in the unlikely event that there is a safety risk, inform healthcare providers, the community and the government as soon as possible.

More information about the safety of the vaccine can be found at the Australian Government Department of Health website: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/learn-about-covid-19-vaccines/are-covid-19-vaccines-safe



Speak to your doctor if you have any questions about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

The best person to talk to if you have questions about your health and getting the COVID-19 vaccine is your doctor/general practitioner (GP).

If you have previously had an allergic reaction to a vaccine it is important that you speak to your doctor before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have had a history of blood clotting conditions cerebral venous sinus thrombosis or heparin induced thrombocytopenia, it is recommended you speak to your doctor before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. People with a medical history of these two rare conditions are currently being advised to wait before receiving a COVID-19 vaccine as a precautionary measure.

This advice might change as more evidence becomes available.





COVID-19 Vaccine Side Effects

Like many other vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects. These symptoms are generally mild and on average resolve within a day or two. If you have any questions about the vaccine, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Common reactions to vaccination include:

- pain where you had the injection
- muscle aches
- fatigue
- headache
- fever

Serious side effects like allergic reactions or anaphylaxis are extremely rare. If this occurs, vaccination providers have medicines available to effectively and immediately treat the reaction.

COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca appears to be associated with a rare side effect called thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) which involves blood clots (thrombosis) and low levels of blood platelets (thrombocytopenia), and occurs about 4-20 days after vaccination. Contact your doctor/general practitioner (GP) for further information.

For Further Information

Websites:

- Australian Government Department of Health COVID-19 vaccines: www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines
- Victorian Government COVID-19 vaccine information: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/getting-vaccinated

Phone Contacts:

- National Coronavirus Helpline. For information on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), call the Australian Government's National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080**.
- 24-hour health advice **1800 022 222**.
- Victorian Coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline **1800 675 398** (24 hours).
- **For an interpreter**, call the coronavirus (COVID-19) hotline **1800 675 398** and press 0.
- If you have any further questions, please speak to your GP.

Sources:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/getting-vaccinated
www.health.gov.au
www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-side-effect-checker

Monash Civic Centre

📍 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley ☎ 9518 3555 🌐 www.monash.vic.gov.au

Language Assist:

普通话	9321 5485	Ελληνικά	9321 5482	廣東話	9321 5481	සිංහල	7005 3002	Italiano	9321 5483
हिंदी	7005 3000	Việt Ngữ	9321 5487	தமிழ்	7005 3003	한국어	9321 5484	Bahasa Indonesia	7005 3001



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