

Vaccination Information

COVID-19

Coronavirus (COVID-19) can cause serious ongoing health issues, and sometimes death. It is still a new virus and as such we are still learning more about it.

Based on what we know, there are groups of people who are at risk of a more serious outcome if they were to get COVID-19.

You are at high risk of severe illness from COVID 19 if you:

- are 70 years of age or over
- have had an organ transplant and are on immune suppressive therapy
- have had a bone marrow transplant in the last 24 months
- are on immune suppressive therapy for graft versus host disease
- have blood cancer e.g. leukaemia, lymphoma or myelodysplastic-syndrome (diagnosed within the last 5 years)
- are having chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

You are at moderate risk of severe illness from COVID-19 if you have:

- chronic renal (kidney) failure
- heart disease (coronary heart disease or failure)
- chronic lung disease (excludes mild or moderate asthma)
- a non-haematological cancer (diagnosed in the last 12 months)
- diabetes
- severe obesity with a BMI ≥ 40 (kg/m²)
- chronic liver disease
- some neurological conditions (stroke, dementia, other) (speak to your doctor about your risk)
- some chronic inflammatory conditions and treatments (speak to your doctor about your risk)
- other primary or acquired immunodeficiency (speak to your doctor about your risk)
- poorly controlled blood pressure (may increase risk – speak to your doctor).

COVID-19 vaccination

Having a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to take to reduce the serious effects of COVID-19 in people who become infected with the virus. Current evidence shows that people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine have a much lower chance of developing more serious disease from COVID-19. This is compared to those who did not get the vaccine.

Even though the COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be very effective there is still a chance you may get COVID-19. No vaccine is 100 per cent effective.

It is important to understand that the COVID-19 vaccines will not infect you with the COVID-19 virus, because the vaccines do not contain live COVID-19 virus.

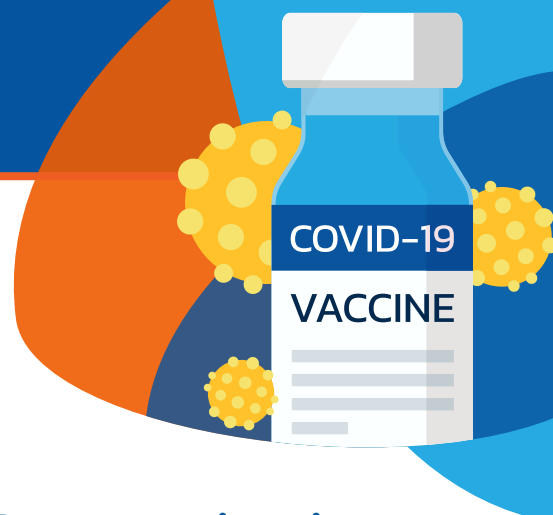
Queensland will have two COVID-19 vaccines available:

- the Pfizer vaccine (also known as Comirnaty) which has been provisionally approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use; and
- the AstraZeneca vaccine which has been provisionally approved by the TGA.

Only COVID-19 vaccines which have been approved by the TGA will be provided in Australia.

Different companies have produced these vaccines using different techniques, however both vaccines are designed to trigger our immune system to make antibodies to the spike protein of the virus. This means if you were to ever get the COVID-19 virus, your body is better prepared to fight the illness.

Importantly, even after vaccination, Queenslanders will still be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and maintain physical distance to help protect yourself and others.



Stay informed at
www.health.gov.au and www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine



**Queensland
Government**

How is the COVID-19 vaccine given?

The vaccine is given via an injection into your upper arm by a health professional who has been trained in giving the COVID-19 vaccine.

You must remain in the vaccination clinic for observation for at least 15 minutes after vaccination. Depending on your medical history, you may be asked to wait in the clinic for 30 minutes.

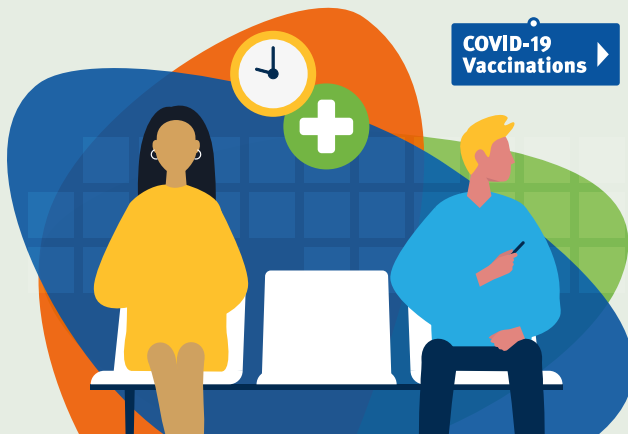
To get the full benefit of the vaccine you will need two injections, several weeks apart.

x2



Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine is suitable for people aged 16 years and older and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is suitable for people aged 18 years and older.



Who should not get the vaccine?

You must not get a COVID-19 vaccine if you have had any of the following:

- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) to a previous dose of the same COVID-19 vaccine
- Anaphylaxis after exposure to any ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to anything else, including after receiving a vaccine, you can still get the vaccine, but you must tell the immunisation provider beforehand.

If you have recently had any other vaccine (e.g. flu vaccine) you should wait at least 14 days to have the COVID-19 vaccine. Make sure you book your appointments with enough time between them.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women?

At this stage, COVID-19 vaccines are not routinely recommended to be given during pregnancy as there is limited experience with the use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women. As we learn more about the vaccines, this advice may change.

If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before you consider receiving this vaccine.





What to expect after your Pfizer vaccination

All medicines and vaccines can cause side effects and most of these are minor effects. However, if you do experience any side effects following vaccination and are worried, contact your GP.

Side-effects of Pfizer vaccine

Common side effects after Pfizer include:

- pain or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle pain
- chills
- fever
- joint pain.

Less common side effects after Pfizer include:

- redness at the injection site
- nausea
- enlarged lymph nodes
- feeling unwell
- pain in the limb
- insomnia
- itching at the injection site.

These side effects are usually mild and usually go away within one or two days. If you experience pain at the injection site or fever, headaches or body aches after vaccination, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen. These help reduce the above symptoms (you do not need to take paracetamol or ibuprofen before vaccination). If there is swelling at the injection site, you can use a cold compress.

Rare side effects that have been reported after Pfizer are:

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- Temporary one-sided facial drooping (also called Bell's palsy).

If this occurs, you will be treated and monitored by health professionals or an ambulance will be called.

If after you have left the vaccination location, seek medical attention if:

- You think you are having an allergic reaction. Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.
- You are worried about a potential side effect or have new or unexpected symptoms.
- You have an expected side effect of the vaccine which has not gone away after a few days.

For symptoms which are not urgent, you can see your regular healthcare provider (usually your GP).

Vaccine safety monitoring and reporting side effects

Suspected side effects can be reported to your vaccination provider or other healthcare professional. They will then make a formal report on your behalf to your state or territory health department or directly to the TGA.

COVID-19 testing after vaccination

Some side effects from COVID-19 vaccination might be similar to symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever). The Pfizer vaccine does not contain any live virus and cannot cause COVID-19. You do not need to get a COVID-19 test or isolate if you develop general symptoms like fever, headache or tiredness in the first two days after vaccination or if you are sure that you don't have any respiratory symptoms (e.g. runny nose, cough, sore throat, loss of smell or loss of taste).



*What to expect after your **AstraZeneca** vaccination will be available soon.*



Remember your second appointment



It is important that you receive two doses of the Pfizer vaccine several weeks apart. Maximum protection against COVID-19 will not occur until at least a week after your second dose.

Where can I get more information or ask questions?

Call 134 COVID (13 42 68) 24 hours, 7 days a week for:

- information on the vaccine
- assistance with vaccination bookings or appointment enquiries
- help understanding this document or to ask for an interpreter – it is free.

Stay informed at www.health.gov.au and www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine



Proof of vaccination

After you have been fully vaccinated, you can get a copy of your Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). You can access this information through the myGov website using your Medicare online account or by calling the AIR on 1800 653 809.

Privacy Notice

Personal information collected by Queensland Health and the Hospital and Health Services (collectively 'Queensland Health') is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

Queensland Health is collecting your personal information including your name, address, phone number, email address, age, gender, Indigenous status, vaccine details and Medicare number in accordance with *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* in order to manage recall, reminders, clinical follow up; or control and enhanced safety monitoring of vaccines. This information will be given to the Australian Immunisation Register for the purpose of maintaining information about vaccinations of individuals.

Your personal information will also be used to administer the Queensland Health COVID-19 immunisation program ('Program'). Your relevant medical information including existence of any medical conditions, allergies, or severe reactions following any vaccine will be collected for the assessment of whether and which vaccine you should be administered.

If you choose not to provide the information it may affect Queensland Health's ability to respond and deliver services to you, including administering the COVID-19 vaccine to you.

All personal information will be securely stored and only accessible by appropriately authorised officers within the Queensland Health.

Your de-identified data (information that will not identify you) will be shared with Commonwealth Government and national immunisation safety, monitoring and surveillance organisations for the purpose of monitoring adverse events following immunisation and evaluating disease prevention and control (immunisation) efforts.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to other third parties without consent, unless the disclosure is authorised or required by or under law.

For information about how Queensland Health protects your personal information, or to learn about your right to access your own personal information, please see our website at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/global/privacy> and <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/access-info/privacy-contacts>

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