



Australian Government

COVID-19
✓ **VACCINATION**

COVID-19 vaccine

Getting ready for the vaccination

Easy Read fact sheet



The Australian Government wrote this fact sheet.
When you see the word 'we', it means the
Australian Government.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



You can ask for help to read
this fact sheet. A friend, family
member or support person
may be able to help you.



What is this fact sheet about?

A **vaccine** is medicine that:



- helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it
- can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.

The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect:



- you
- your family
- the community.



A **vaccination** is when you receive an injection of the vaccine. This is done with a needle.



At first, only some people will receive the COVID-19 vaccination.



Once you have an appointment for your COVID-19 vaccination, there are things you must do to be ready.

Update your details



You should make sure your Medicare details are up to date.



You can ask someone you trust to help you, such as a family member or friend.

You can check your Medicare details:



- on the [MyGov website](#)



- in the Express Plus Medicare app on your phone or tablet



- by calling Medicare on **131 011**.

If you don't have a Medicare account set up yet, you can:



- sign up for Medicare



- set up your online account on the **MyGov website**



If you can't take part in Medicare, you can apply to get an Individual Health Identifier (IHI) on the **Services Australia website**.

Talk to your doctor

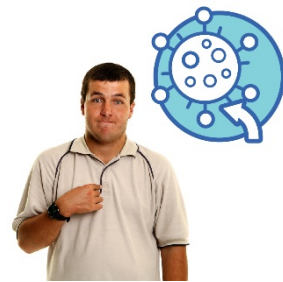


You might want to talk to your doctor before you have your COVID-19 vaccination.

You should talk to your doctor first if you:



- are pregnant or breastfeeding



- have had COVID-19 before



- are taking medicine to thin your blood.



You should talk to your doctor if you have:

- any allergies, particularly to any vaccines in the past
- **anaphylaxis.**



Anaphylaxis is a very strong allergic reaction.



If you need an EpiPen, you have had a strong allergic reaction before.



You should also talk to your doctor if you are **immunocompromised**.



If you are immunocompromised, it is harder for your body to fight:

- infections
- other diseases.



You might want to talk to your doctor if you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, such as:

- how it might affect other health problems you have
- what risks there are.

Things to bring to your appointment



You need to bring some things with you to your COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

If you have one, you need to bring:



- photo ID, such as your driver's licence or companion card



- your Medicare card



- a work ID, if you are having the vaccination because of your job.



You need to tell the person doing your vaccination:

- who your doctor is
- if you see any specialists.

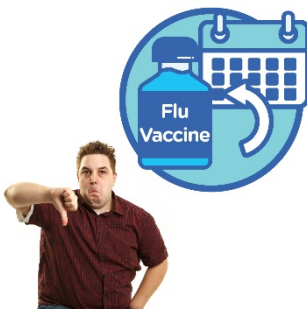
You also need to tell them if you have:



- any health problems, such as allergies



- had any other COVID-19 vaccines



- had a reaction to other vaccines in the past, such as the flu vaccine.



You also might need to wear a face mask if your state or territory says you need to.

If you need to change your appointment

You might need to change your appointment to a different day if you:



- have had any other vaccines in the last 14 days



- are waiting for COVID-19 test results



- have COVID-19



- were told to stay home and **self-isolate**.



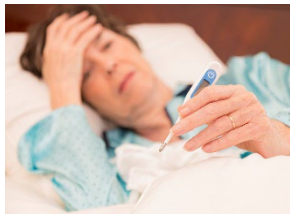
When you self-isolate, you stay at home until:

- you feel well
- a doctor says you don't need to anymore.



You might need to change your appointment if someone you have seen lately has COVID-19.

You might need to change your appointment if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, including:



- fever



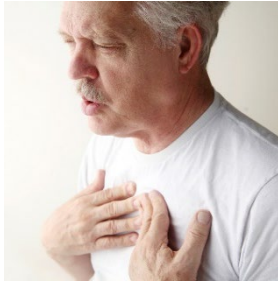
- sore throat



- cough



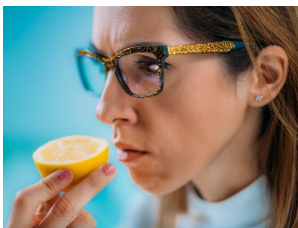
- tiredness



- shortness of breath



- losing your sense of taste



- losing your sense of smell.

More information



You can call the Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787**.

They are open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.



You can visit the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au for more information about the vaccine.



You can call the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080**.



If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 3916-F.

Last updated February 2021.