COVID-19 VACCINATION

COVID-19 vaccine

Other information

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 into 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.

Many people have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

We answer lots of these questions on the following pages.

You can also talk to someone you trust if you have questions about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Do you need to have the COVID-19 vaccination?

You can choose to have the COVID-19 vaccination.

But you don't need to have it if you don't want to.

In the future, you might need to have the vaccination if you:

- want to travel

- work in an aged care home or a hospital.

But if you have a medical reason, you won't need to have the vaccination.

Do you have to pay for the COVID-19 vaccination?

The COVID-19 vaccination is free.

You don't need to:

- pay for it

- use your NDIS funding to pay for it.

What type of vaccine will you get?

Scientists around the world have made different COVID-19 vaccines.

We have 2 vaccines that have been approved in Australia.

They are called the:

- Pfizer vaccine – this is also known as the Comirnaty vaccine

- COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine.

More COVID-19 vaccines might be approved later this year.

You will only receive a vaccine that has been approved in Australia.

What is in a vaccine?

In Australia, the **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)** approves all vaccines before they can be used.

The TGA is part of the Australian Government.

The TGA makes sure the medicines we use in Australia are safe.

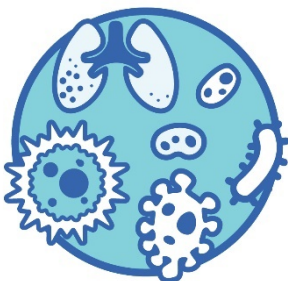The TGA only approves vaccines that:

- are safe

- work well.

This means the vaccines:

- we use in Australia are safe

- are made from ingredients that are safe for people to use
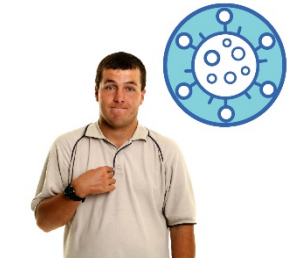
- are proven to help you fight certain viruses.

You can find more information about what is in the different COVID-19 vaccines on the **Therapeutic Goods Administration website**.

When can you get the vaccine?

Some people will have the COVID-19 vaccination first, including people who are more at risk of:

- catching the virus

- getting very sick if they catch the virus.

We call these **priority groups**.

If you are part of one of these priority groups, you can:

- choose to have the vaccine now

- have the vaccine later if you choose not to have it now.

We made an Easy Read fact sheet about who can get the vaccine now.

You'll find it on our website.

Who will know you had the COVID-19 vaccination?

In Australia, the law says the government must keep a record of who has vaccinations.

This includes the COVID-19 vaccination.

The person giving you the vaccination must ask you some questions before they start.

The government will use this information in the **Australian Immunisation Register (the Register)**.

The Register is a record of everyone who has vaccinations in Australia.

You can see what information the government has about you in the Register on your vaccination record.

Your vaccination record includes information about all of the vaccinations you have had.

After you have the COVID-19 vaccination, your vaccination record will include it.

You can see your vaccination record online in your:

- Medicare account

- MyGov account

- MyHealthRecord account.

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**.

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