# COVID-19 vaccine

## Who will get the vaccine?

### 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.

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 a type of 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.

We want to give everyone in Australia a chance to have a   
COVID-19 vaccination.

But we can’t give everyone the vaccination at the same time.

We want as many people as possible to have the vaccination in 2021.

## Who will get the COVID-19 vaccination first?

Some people will have their COVID-19 vaccination first.

This includes people who are more at risk of:

* catching the virus
* getting very sick if they catch the virus.

We call these **priority groups**.

There is a team of medical experts called the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

The ATAGI decides who is in a priority group.

The first priority group is called 1a.

Group 1a includes people with disability who live with at least one other person with disability.

Group 1a also includes:

* people who work in disability accommodation
* people who live in aged care
* people who work in aged care
* doctors and health workers who are more at risk of catching the virus
* **quarantine** workers.

If someone returns from overseas, the government asks them to stay in   
a hotel.

We call this quarantine.

The second priority group is called 1b.

Group 1b includes:

* people with disability over 16 years old with serious health problems
* people with disability over 16 years old who use supports and services with other people with disability
* people aged 70 years or older
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 50 years or older.

Group 1b also includes:

* other people with serious health problems
* other people who work with people with disability
* other people who work with people over 70 years old
* other doctors and health workers
* other people who work in certain jobs, such as police and firefighters.

The third priority group is called 2a.

Group 2a includes:

* adults aged 50 years and older
* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults aged 18 to 49 years old
* other people who work in certain jobs.

To find out if you are in a priority group, you can:

* use the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker on the Healthdirect Australia website at [www.covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/ eligibility](http://www.covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility)
* talk to your doctor
* talk to the people who support you.

Family members who are not carers of people with disability are not in a priority group.

But they might belong in a priority groups for another reason, such as:

* a health problem
* their job.

You can find out more about priority groups on the   
Department of Health website:

[www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/ covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for- covid-19/when-will-i-get-a-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/getting-vaccinated-for-covid-19/when-will-i-get-a-covid-19-vaccine)

## 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](http://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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