



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.



When it is your turn, you can book an appointment at a place that offers the vaccine.



You might need to wait until you can get an appointment.

There are limited amounts of vaccines available.



At the moment there are different places that offer vaccinations.

This includes:



- local doctor's offices



- clinics run by your state or territory government or the Australian Government



- places run by NDIS service providers.

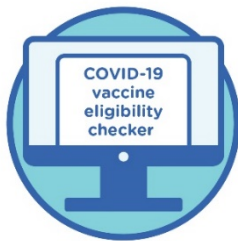
You can find out where you can book an appointment by:



- contacting a place that offers the vaccine



- talking to your disability provider



- using the COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker on the Healthdirect Australia website at www.covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility



- calling the Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787**.



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

Update your details



If you have a Medicare card, 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 at www.my.gov.au



- 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 at www.my.gov.au



If you can't take part in Medicare, you can apply to get an Individual Health Identifier (IHI) on the Services Australia website at www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/forms/ms003.

Talk to your doctor

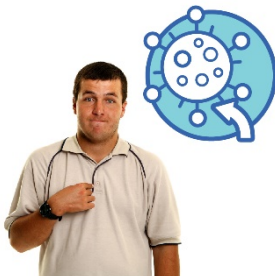


You might want to talk to your doctor before you have your COVID-19 vaccination.

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:



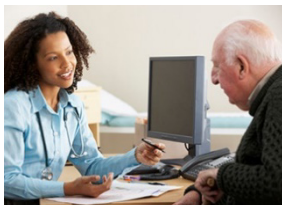
- any allergies, particularly to any vaccines in the past
- **anaphylaxis.**



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.

You might want to talk to your doctor about:



- which vaccine you might get
- any concerns you have.



We wrote Easy Read documents that explain each type of vaccine in detail.



You can find them on the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au.

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.

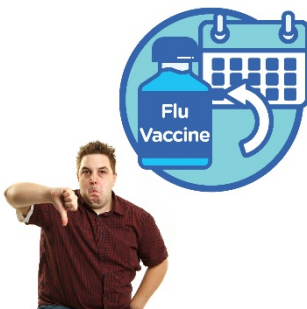
You also need to tell them if you have:



- 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.



The person giving you the COVID-19 vaccination must ask you for consent before they do this.



When you give your consent, you say it is ok for someone to do something.



You can find out more about giving your consent on the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au.

Proving you are part of a priority group



Some people will have their COVID-19 vaccination first.



This includes people who are more at risk of:

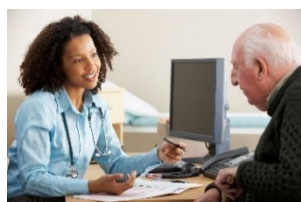
- catching the virus
- getting very sick if they catch the virus.



We call these **priority groups**.



You need to prove you belong in a priority group to get your vaccination.



You can ask your doctor to write a letter that says you belong in a priority group.

You can use documents to prove you belong in a priority group, such as:



- medical records



- a prescription for a serious health problem



- documents from a hospital



- a letter from your disability service provider.



If you belong in a priority group because of your job, you can provide a:

- work ID card
- letter from your employer.



If you can't get any of these, you can sign a form that says you belong in a priority group.

When you sign the form, you agree that you:



- read all the documents about who belongs in the priority groups



- understood what you read



- belong in a priority group.



You can ask for help to fill out the form.

A friend, family member or support person might be able to help you.

If you need to change your appointment

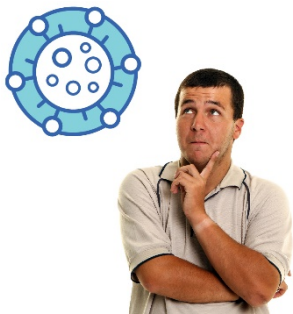
You might need to change your appointment to a different day if you:



- have had any other vaccines in the last 7 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



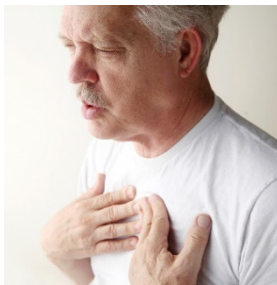
- sore throat



- cough



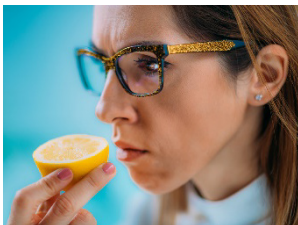
- tiredness



- 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 and COVID-19 Vaccine 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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