



Australian Government

**COVID-19**  
✓ **VACCINATION**

# COVID-19 vaccine



## What to expect when you have your 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 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.



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



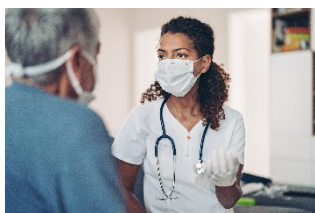
Later in the year, more people will receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

## What will happen at your vaccination?



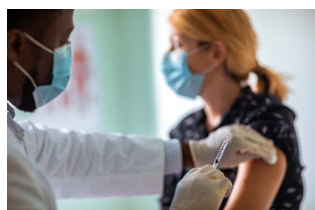
You can bring someone you trust with you to your COVID-19 vaccination, such as a:

- family member
- friend
- support worker or carer.

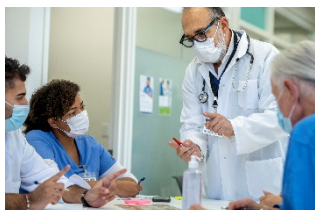


The person doing your vaccination will ask you some questions before they start.

We explain these questions on pages 5–11



After they talk to you, they will give you your vaccination.



The person giving you your vaccination has been trained.

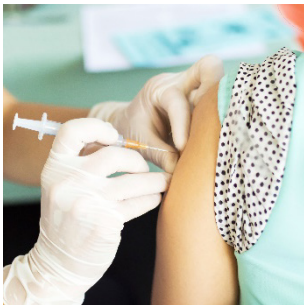


They know how to give you your COVID-19 vaccination the right way.

They will:



- choose where to put the vaccine – it usually goes into your upper arm



- inject the COVID-19 vaccine with a needle

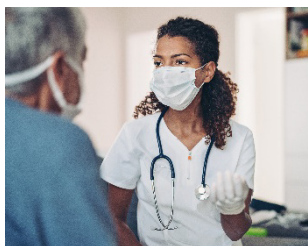


- ask you to wait between 15 to 30 minutes before you leave



- make sure you are ok.

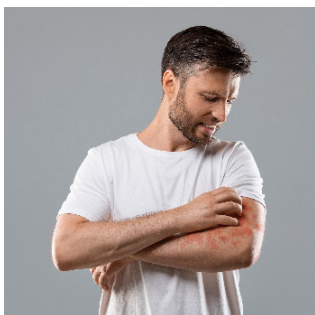
## What questions will they ask you?



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

They will ask you the following questions:

Do you have:



- any serious **allergies?**

An allergy is when your body reacts to something, such as food or medicine.

We sometimes call this an allergic reaction.



- **anaphylaxis?**

Anaphylaxis is a very serious allergic reaction.



- an EpiPen?

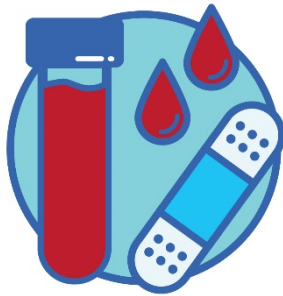
If you need an EpiPen, you have had a strong allergic reaction before.



Has your body reacted to a vaccine before?



Have you had COVID-19 before?



Do you have a **bleeding disorder**?

A bleeding disorder is a health problem that affects your blood.



Do you take any medicine to thin your blood?



Are you **immunocompromised**?

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

- infections
- other diseases.



You might be immunocompromised because you:



- have a health problem



- are taking a certain medication.



You must tell the person doing your vaccination if you are taking any medications.



Are you pregnant?

Do you think you might be pregnant?

Are you trying to get pregnant?



Are you breastfeeding?

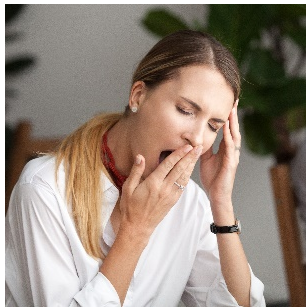


Have you been sick?



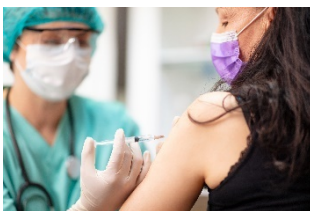
Have you had:

- a cough?
- a sore throat?
- a fever?



Have you been:

- feeling tired?
- finding it hard to breathe?



Have you had a COVID-19 vaccination before?



If you have had a COVID-19 vaccination before, they will ask you which vaccine you've had.





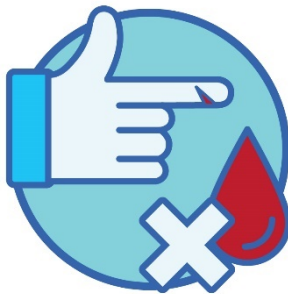
Have you had any other vaccinations in the last 7 days?



Are you aged 60 years or younger?



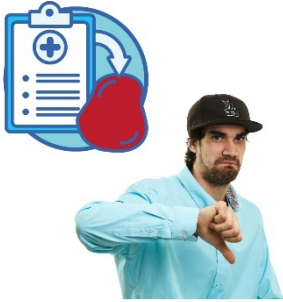
When blood gets thick, we call it a **blood clot**.



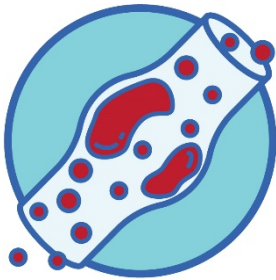
There are safe blood clots, like when you get a small cut and it stops bleeding.



But there are also blood clots that are not safe.



Some conditions can cause blood clots that are not safe.



Do you have a serious condition that causes blood clots?



They will also ask you if you give your **consent** to have:

- the COVID-19 vaccination today
- a second dose of the vaccine later.



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



You can choose to have the vaccination.



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

They must ask you for your consent when you have your:



- first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine



- second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Information you need to bring



The person doing your vaccination also needs to collect some information about you.



They need to keep a record of:

- who has had the vaccine
- how many doses you have had.

They need to know your:



- name



- Medicare number, if you have one



- date of birth



- home address

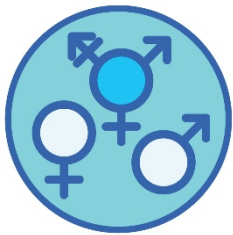


- phone number



- email address

- **gender**



Your gender is what you feel and understand about who you are as a person.

This could be male, female or another answer that is right for you.



They will also ask if you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

## Your second appointment



The person doing your vaccination will tell you when you need to have your second dose of the vaccine.



There are different types of COVID-19 vaccines.



But most of them need 2 doses to work in the right way.



You need to have the same vaccine both times.





If you have the AstraZeneca vaccine, you must have a second dose about 12 weeks after your first dose.



If you have the Pfizer vaccine, you must have a second dose at least 21 days after your first dose.

The Pfizer vaccine is also known as the Comirnaty vaccine.



The vaccines won't work properly against COVID-19 until 1–2 weeks after your second dose.

## 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 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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