



Australian Government

COVID-19
✓ **VACCINATION**

COVID-19 vaccine



Giving your consent

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.



When you go to your COVID-19 vaccination appointment, they will ask you for your **consent**.



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

They will ask you for your consent to have your:



- first COVID-19 vaccination today



- second COVID-19 vaccination later.



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.



We want as many people as possible to have the vaccination to keep everyone safe.

Why do they need your consent?



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

They need to tell you:



- why you should get the vaccine



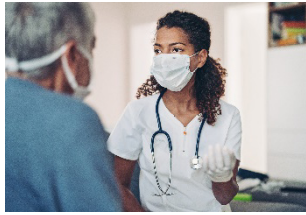
- why it's safe



- what will happen when you have it.



They might give you an information sheet to read.



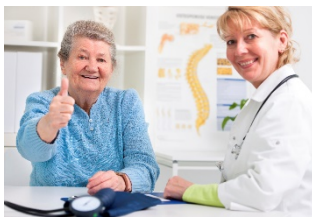
And they can answer any questions you have about the COVID-19 vaccination.



They tell you this so you can decide if you want to have the COVID-19 vaccination.



They also want to make sure you feel ok if you choose to have the vaccination.



You can talk to your doctor before you decide if you will have a COVID-19 vaccination.

You might want to ask your doctor questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, such as:



- how it might affect any health problems you have



- if there are any risks for you.

You can also talk to the person doing your vaccination if you have any questions, such as:



- what will happen when I get the vaccination?



- why do I need it?



- how will I feel after I have it?



- what could go wrong?



- what will happen if I say no?

How do you give consent?



You can give your consent in different ways.

You can:



- say 'Yes' or 'No'



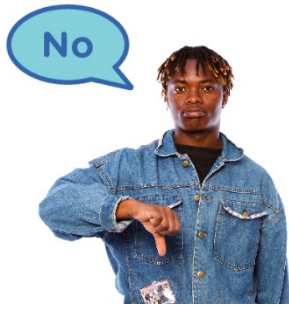
- use sign language



- use pictures



- sign a consent form.



You can speak up and say 'No' if you don't want the vaccination.



You can bring someone you trust with you when you have the vaccination.



If you can't give consent, your **guardian** can give consent for you.

A guardian is a person who acts and makes decisions for you.



Your guardian might be:

- a member of your family
- a friend
- chosen for you by the government.

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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Last updated June 2021.