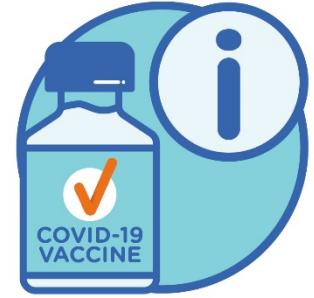# COVID-19 VACCINATION

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 a type of 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 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.

If you go to a doctor or medical clinic for your vaccination, they will bulk bill your appointment.

This means you don't have to pay for it.

Can you get NDIS funding to help you get your vaccination?

NDIS funding is money from your NDIS plan that pays for the supports and services you need.
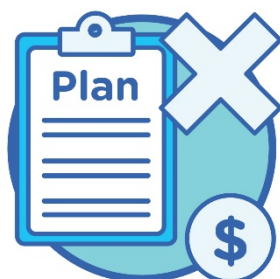
If you have Supported Independent Living (SIL) funding, your SIL provider might help you:

- book your appointment

- go to your appointment.

The NDIA will pay your SIL provider to help you with your COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

The NDIA will pay your SIL provider directly.

They won't use any of the NDIS funding from your NDIS plan.

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.

The COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine is for people aged 60 years and over.

The Pfizer vaccine is:

- for people aged under 60 years

- also known as the Comirnaty vaccine.

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**.

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

We have a limited amount of vaccines.

You can't choose which vaccine you have.

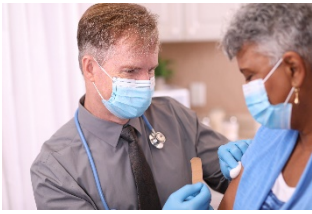The type of vaccine you have depends on:

- how old you are

- where you get vaccinated.

The type of vaccine you have also depends on:

- who gives you the vaccine

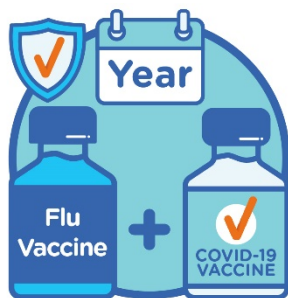- what vaccine is available when you have your appointment.

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

We know all the vaccines that have been approved in Australia are safe.

Should you get the flu shot this year?

You can have a flu vaccination and your COVID-19 vaccination in the same year.

If you get a flu vaccination you must wait at least 7 days before you get the COVID-19 vaccination.

If you get the COVID-19 vaccination, you must wait at least 7 days before you get the flu vaccination.

It does not matter which vaccination you get first.

What is in a vaccine?

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

The TGA is a group of **independent** medical experts.

This means they make their own decisions using the scientific information they have.

The TGA makes sure the medicines we use in Australia work well.

The TGA only approves vaccines that:
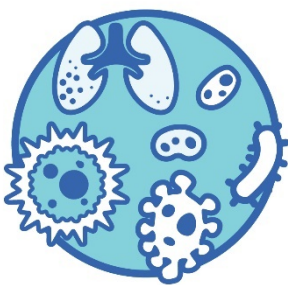
- are safe

- 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.

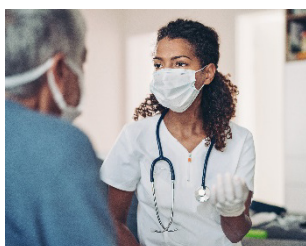We made an Easy Read fact sheet about who can get the vaccine now.

You can find it on the Departments of Health website at **www.health.gov.au**.

Who will know you had the COVID-19 vaccination?

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

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

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 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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