

COVID-19 Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions

Last updated - 24 June 2021

You should rely on reputable information to make informed choices about COVID-19 vaccines.

1. Who will receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

Everyone in Australia will be offered the vaccine.

2. How to book my COVID-19 vaccination?

Vaccination clinics are now offering people aged 60+ years the AstraZeneca vaccine and people aged 40-59 years of age the Pfizer vaccine. Many other people are also eligible depending on their occupation, underlying health conditions or type of accommodation setting. There are several ways to make a vaccination appointment.

1. StarHealth Clinic

Appointments are required at the Prahran Town Hall clinic on Greville Street. You can book an appointment online or over the phone with our friendly team.

www.starhealth.org.au/covid19

Tel: 9525 1300

2. Victoria's Coronavirus Hotline

Find out more about who can get vaccinated now in Victoria at this website:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/who-can-get-vaccinated>

Contact the Coronavirus Hotline to make an appointment at a Victorian Government State Vaccination Centre.

Tel: 1800 675 398

Select option 1, then option 1 and finally option 1.



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2. How to book my COVID-19 vaccination? Cont.

3. Australian Government Eligibility Checker

Check your eligibility on the following website, where you can also make an appointment at a participating GP or community health service:

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker>

You can also call the National Coronavirus Hotline to make an appointment.

Tel: 1800 020 080

3. Can I currently get vaccinated?

Yes – All Victorians 40+ years old are now eligible to get vaccinated.

Vaccination clinics are now offering people aged 60+ years of age the AstraZeneca vaccine and people aged 40–59 years of age the Pfizer vaccine. Many other people are also eligible depending on their occupation, underlying health conditions or type of accommodation setting.

For example, if you are living in a rooming house, community housing, supported accommodation, public housing or hostel and are 16+ years old you can also get vaccinated.

International students living in high density accommodation are also welcome and advised to bring ID.

Check the list of eligible people under 40 years of age here:

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/who-can-get-vaccinated>



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4. Do I need a COVID-19 test before I get vaccinated?

No. You do not need to be tested before you receive your vaccination but, if you feel unwell on the day of your vaccination appointment you should reschedule your appointment.

You should get a test if you have symptoms such as these:



Fever, chills or sweats



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath

5. What should I do before my COVID-19 vaccination?

Continue to follow COVIDSafe practices like hand washing, social distancing where possible and wearing a mask.



Check your Medicare details are up to date, or register with Medicare.



If you are not eligible for Medicare you can apply for an Individual Health Identifier (IHI).

Visit **myGov** at my.gov.au or call Medicare on **13 20 11** for more details or assistance.



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6. Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccination?

Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against severe COVID-19 disease and death due to COVID-19.

Vaccines strengthen your immune system by training it to recognise and fight against specific viruses.

When you get vaccinated you are protecting your health and helping to protect your family, friends and the whole community from the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

7. Is the vaccine safe?

Australians can be confident that the Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) review process of this vaccine was rigorous and of the highest standard. The TGA has one of the most stringent approval processes in the world.

COVID-19 vaccines had to pass the same TGA safety standards as any other vaccine offered in Australia. Further, the TGA batch-tests all imported COVID-19 vaccines and will continue to actively monitor the vaccine in Australia and overseas.



Research



Review



Approve



Monitor



Pregnancy and Breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant, you don't need to delay your COVID-19 vaccination. In fact, the risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 infection is significant during pregnancy. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Australia's immunisation experts ATAGI recommend the Pfizer mRNA vaccine at any stage of pregnancy. If you have questions about vaccination while you are breastfeeding, please discuss with your GP.



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8. Is the vaccine mandatory?

The vaccine is voluntary, not mandatory. It will be offered and available to you should you wish to receive it.

In line with advice from the Commonwealth government StarHealth recommends vaccination against transmissible diseases, including COVID-19, because vaccines approved for use in Australia are safe and effective in protecting our communities.

9. Will I be able to choose which COVID-19 vaccine I receive?

People aged 60+ will receive the AstraZeneca vaccine. People aged under 60 will receive the Pfizer vaccine. This is the recommendation from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.

10. Are there any side-effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?

You may or may not experience minor side-effects following vaccination.

Side-effects can be a good indicator of the strength of your immune system.

Common reactions to vaccinations include:

- Pain, redness and/ or swelling at the site of injection (usually your upper arm).
- Mild fever, tiredness and aches and pains for a day or two.

There have been reports of a small number of people with unusual blood clots after COVID-19 vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine. These are very rare and are being investigated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). Current advice is that the benefit for over 60s of having the vaccine outweighs the risk. This is because illness from COVID-19 for over 60s can be very severe. Read our fact sheet on AstraZeneca vaccine if you need more information.

If you are concerned about any possible side-effects, please consult with a GP before vaccination.



11. How long does the COVID-19 vaccine last?

It is likely you will need at least an annual COVID-19 vaccination for effective protection. We will know more about this later in the year.

12. Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine?

No. The COVID-19 vaccine will be voluntary and free to everyone in Australia.



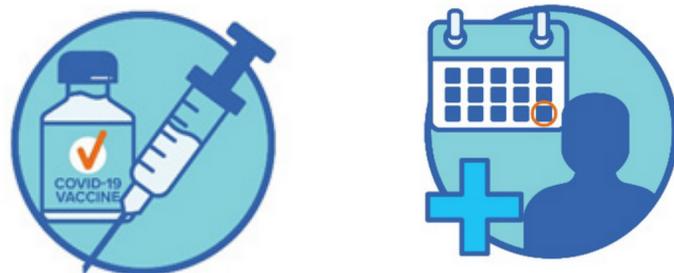
13. If I refuse the vaccine, will I lose my Government payment?

No. If you refuse the COVID-19 vaccine, this will not affect any government payments you may be receiving currently.

14. How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will I need?

You will require two doses, AstraZeneca doses are given 12 weeks apart. Pfizer vaccines are given usually 3 to 6 weeks apart.

Your GP, StarHealth clinician or other healthcare professional who administers the first dose will tell you when your second dose is required.



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15. Do I need the flu vaccine?

Yes, the flu vaccine protects you against influenza, which is still a serious illness.

You should consult with a GP to make sure you receive your flu vaccine at a safe interval from the COVID-19 vaccine doses, at least two weeks before or after.

16. What can I do to stay safe until I get vaccinated?

Keep following COVIDSafe practices.



Check exposure sites regularly.

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites

If you are unwell, get tested and stay at home until you receive a COVID-19 negative result.



Contact your doctor or healthcare professional if you have further questions
Visit www.starhealth.org.au for more information and for referrals to StarHealth clinics
Tel: StarHealth 03 9525 1300
Tel: Australian Government COVID-19 Help line 1800 020 080



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