

Drug Use and COVID-19 Vaccination

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Why get a COVID-19 vaccination?

Vaccination is the best way to protect yourself and your community from catching and transmitting COVID-19. It is safe and effective and will help in the prevention of future outbreaks.

Drug use and vaccination

If you use or have ever used drugs, getting vaccinated for protection against COVID-19 is a good choice. If you have underlying medical conditions including chronic lung disease, chronic liver disease, or serious heart conditions, you are more than likely to experience sickness from COVID-19. Vaccination is highly recommended to avoid becoming seriously ill.

Vaccination side effects

Not everyone experiences side-effects from the COVID-19 vaccination. If you do notice side-effects, they are usually mild and last 1-2 days. They may include:

- mild fever
- chills
- headache
- nausea
- fatigue

COVID-19 vaccine side-effects can be like drug or alcohol withdrawal symptoms, including fever, chills, bone/body ache, nausea, and fatigue. Many people also report headaches after the vaccination.

If you use substances, try to keep close track of your use in the days after getting vaccinated. If withdrawal symptoms seem unlikely, it might be the vaccine. Immunisations can put additional pressure on your immune system initially, so your body might work differently to normal for a short period of time.

Remember all your best overdose prevention and reversal strategies!

It is rare to feel unwell for more than a day. Remind yourself that the symptoms will pass and are very unlikely to be related to opioid withdrawal.

How to book your COVID-19 vaccination

Protect yourself from COVID-19 by getting vaccinated. You can receive a vaccine at a range of clinics near you.

Call StarHealth to make an appointment at one of our clinics on 8644 3311, visit us at www.starhealth.org.au or book an appointment at <https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility> or through the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.



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