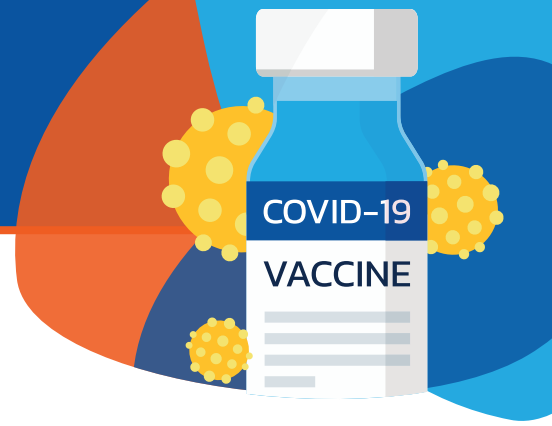


Vaccination Information



COVID-19

Coronavirus (COVID-19) can cause serious ongoing health issues, and sometimes death. It is still a new virus and as such we are still learning more about it.

Based on what we know, there are groups of people who are at risk of a more serious outcome if they were to get COVID-19.

You are at high risk of severe illness from COVID 19 if you:

- are 70 years of age or over
- have had an organ transplant and are on immune suppressive therapy
- have had a bone marrow transplant in the last 24 months
- are on immune suppressive therapy for graft versus host disease
- have blood cancer e.g. leukaemia, lymphoma or myelodysplastic-syndrome (diagnosed within the last 5 years)
- are having chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

You are at moderate risk of severe illness from COVID-19 if you have:

- chronic renal (kidney) failure
- heart disease (coronary heart disease or failure)
- chronic lung disease (excludes mild or moderate asthma)
- a non-haematological cancer (diagnosed in the last 12 months)
- diabetes
- severe obesity with a BMI ≥ 40 (kg/m²)
- chronic liver disease
- some neurological conditions (stroke, dementia, other) (speak to your doctor about your risk)
- some chronic inflammatory conditions and treatments (speak to your doctor about your risk)
- other primary or acquired immunodeficiency (speak to your doctor about your risk)
- poorly controlled blood pressure (may increase risk – speak to your doctor).

COVID-19 vaccination

Having a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to take to reduce the serious effects of COVID-19 in people who become infected with the virus. The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain live COVID-19 virus which means the vaccine cannot infect you with the COVID-19 virus.

Even though the COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be very effective there is still a chance you may get COVID-19. No vaccine is 100 per cent effective. However, current evidence shows that people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine have a much lower chance of developing more serious disease from COVID-19. This is compared to those who did not get the vaccine.

Queensland has two COVID-19 vaccines available:

- the Pfizer vaccine (also known as Comirnaty) which has been provisionally approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for use; and
- the AstraZeneca vaccine which has been provisionally approved by the TGA.

The vaccines have been made differently but both offer strong levels of protection against COVID-19. The vaccines are designed to trigger your immune system to make antibodies to the spike protein of the virus. This means if you were to ever get the COVID-19 virus, your body is better prepared to fight the illness.

Both vaccines have been through rigorous testing, by the TGA, to ensure they meet the highest safety and effectiveness standards.

Both vaccines are suitable for older Queenslanders, but you should speak to your doctor before having the vaccine if you have:

- some neurological conditions (stroke, dementia, other)
- some chronic inflammatory conditions and treatments
- other primary or acquired immunodeficiency
- high blood pressure.

It is important to remember that even after vaccination, you should wash your hands regularly and maintain physical distance to help protect yourself.



Stay informed at
www.health.gov.au and www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine



Queensland
Government

How is the COVID-19 vaccine given?

The vaccine is given via an injection into your upper arm by a health professional who has been trained in giving the COVID-19 vaccine.

You must remain in the vaccination clinic for observation for at least 15 minutes after vaccination. Depending on your medical history, you may be asked to wait in the clinic for 30 minutes.



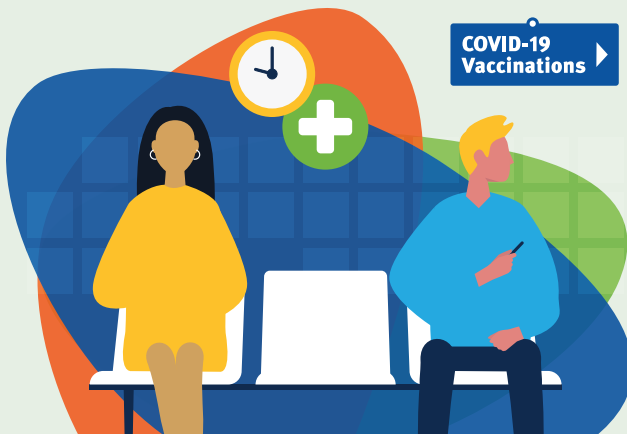
x2

To get the full benefit of the vaccine you will need two injections, several weeks apart.



Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The Pfizer vaccine is suitable for people aged 16 years and older and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is suitable for people aged 18 years and older.



Who should not get the vaccine?

You must not get a COVID-19 vaccine if you have had any of the following:

- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) to a previous dose of the same COVID-19 vaccine
- Anaphylaxis after exposure to any ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have ever had a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis to anything else, including following a vaccine, you can still get the vaccine, but you must tell the immunisation provider beforehand.

If you have recently had any other vaccine (e.g. flu vaccine) you should wait at least 14 days to have the COVID-19 vaccine. Make sure you book your appointments with enough time between them.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women?

At this stage, COVID-19 vaccines are not routinely recommended to be given during pregnancy as there is limited experience with the use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women. As we learn more about the vaccines, this advice may change.

If you are breastfeeding you can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at any time. You do not need to stop breastfeeding before or after vaccination.

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before you consider receiving this vaccine.



Where can I get more information or ask questions?

Call 134 COVID (13 42 68) 24 hours, 7 days a week for:

- information on the vaccine
- assistance with vaccination bookings or appointment enquiries
- for help understanding this document or to ask for an interpreter – it is free.

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms after being fully vaccinated, please get tested. If you experience COVID-19 symptoms between your doses and are not sure what to do, call your doctor or nearest testing clinic.

Stay informed at www.health.gov.au and www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine



Privacy Notice

Personal information collected by Queensland Health and the Hospital and Health Services (collectively 'Queensland Health') is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

Queensland Health is collecting your personal information including your name, address, phone number, email address, age, gender, Indigenous status, vaccine details and Medicare number in accordance with *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* in order to manage recall, reminders, clinical follow up; or control and enhanced safety monitoring of vaccines. This information will be given to the Australian Immunisation Register for the purpose of maintaining information about vaccinations of individuals.

Your personal information will also be used to administer the Queensland Health COVID-19 immunisation program ('Program'). Your relevant medical information including existence of any medical conditions, allergies, or severe reactions following any vaccine will be collected for the assessment of whether and which vaccine you should be administered.

If you choose not to provide the information it may affect Queensland Health's ability to respond and deliver services to you, including administering the COVID-19 vaccine to you.

All personal information will be securely stored and only accessible by appropriately authorised officers within the Queensland Health.

Your de-identified data (information that will not identify you) will be shared with Commonwealth Government and national immunisation safety, monitoring and surveillance organisations for the purpose of monitoring adverse events following immunisation and evaluating disease prevention and control (immunisation) efforts.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to other third parties without consent, unless the disclosure is authorised or required by or under law.

For information about how Queensland Health protects your personal information, or to learn about your right to access your own personal information, please see our website at <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/global/privacy> and <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/access-info/privacy-contacts>

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