

VACCINATIONS FOR COVID-19 FACTSHEET

October 2021



WHY SHOULD YOU GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19?

- ✓ COVID-19 vaccinations have saved thousands of lives
- ✓ Vaccines are rigorously tested and developed without compromising safety, quality and effectiveness before they are approved for use in Australia
- ✓ Vaccinated people are less likely to be seriously ill, go to hospital or die with COVID, and less likely to infect others. COVID-19 is a deadly disease, and even if you don't die, you can go through an awful experience, feeling dreadful and struggling for breath. A lot of people end up with unpleasant after-effects (known as long COVID-19) that go on for months
- ✓ Vaccination is the way to get back the freedoms you want and need.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED:

DOES COVID-19 VACCINATION HAVE SIDE EFFECTS?

You may have minor side effects after vaccination, but most side effects only last a couple of days.

DOES IT AFFECT PREGNANCY OR FERTILITY?

There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccination causes any problems with pregnancy or fertility.

DOES IT AFFECT MY DNA?

COVID-19 vaccines do not alter your DNA.

IS THERE A CHANCE IT WILL GIVE ME COVID-19?

None of the COVID-19 vaccines approved in Australia contain the live virus, so they can't give you the disease.

WHAT'S THE COST?

COVID-19 vaccination is free for everyone in Australia aged 12 years and over.

DO I NEED TO BE ENROLLED IN MEDICARE?

You don't need to be eligible for Medicare to get a free COVID-19 vaccination.

I'M UNDER 50, SO I'M NOT LIKELY TO GET SICK, RIGHT?

Wrong. Intensive care units in hospitals have people from all age groups. Even people in their 20s have died.

WILL I NEED BOOSTER SHOTS?

For now, you'll get two doses of the same COVID-19 vaccine. Later, booster shots may be recommended to update your immunity and protect against future variants.

CAN I BE FORCED TO GET VACCINATED?

COVID-19 vaccination is voluntary.

WHAT ABOUT WHERE IT'S MANDATORY?

Government health departments have made public health orders requiring some workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This only applies to people working in jobs where the risk of spreading the disease is particularly high. For example, people working in quarantine facilities, or where they need to be in close contact with other people, or where they're dealing with vulnerable clients, such as aged care or disability services. Exemptions are available for people who have genuine medical grounds why they shouldn't be vaccinated.

IF I REFUSE TO BE VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 , WHAT WILL THE CONSEQUENCES BE?

In the short term, you won't be allowed to do all the things vaccinated people can do, meaning your freedoms will be restricted. Worse than this, you're at a higher risk of contracting the disease which may lead to serious illness or possibly even death.

For answers to other frequently asked questions read [here](#).

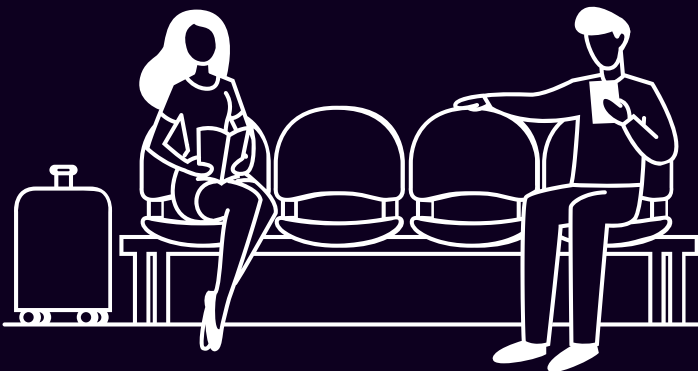
HOW TO BOOK YOUR COVID-19 VACCINATION

THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO GET THE JAB.

The [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#) is available online and easy to use. Answer a few simple questions (your age, what state you live in, etc) to view vaccination clinics available to you. It's a complete list of all clinics in Australia. Details of more than 10,000 vaccination clinics and participating pharmacies are available. It is the best way to compare clinics, check availability and book an appointment in one place.

Or you can ring your local doctor or medical clinic and ask.

Pharmacists around Australia who have been appropriately trained are now able to provide vaccinations to protect you against COVID-19. The ['Find a pharmacy'](#) webpage enables you to find your nearest participating community pharmacy and book your COVID-19 vaccine online.



Protect yourself, your family,
your friends and colleagues.

GET VACCINATED

This content is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice and should not be relied upon as health advice. Always seek the advice and guidance of your doctor or other qualified health professional with any questions you may have regarding your health or a medical condition.

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