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MONITORING AND REPORTING ADVERSE EVENTS AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATION IN RACFS

This document provides guidance for vaccination workforce providers and residential aged care facility (RACF) staff monitoring residents after administration of COVID-19 vaccines.

Vaccine workforce providers are responsible for monitoring residents and reporting serious reactions for the first 15 minutes post-vaccination, after which RACF staff are responsible for monitoring and reporting serious reactions.

Common side effects

Residents may experience minor side effects after a COVID-19 vaccination. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days.

Common reactions to vaccination include:

- pain, redness and/or swelling at the injection site
- mild fever
- headache.

Serious reactions

Serious reactions to a COVID-19 vaccination, such as allergic reactions are very rare.

It is important to monitor residents for 15 minutes following their vaccination. If they become unwell during this time you should immediately alert the registered nurse on duty and the person giving the vaccine.

The person giving the vaccine is trained to respond to immediate reactions.

Roles and responsibilities for monitoring and reporting serious reactions in residential aged care facilities are outlined in the aged care [COVID-19 vaccination clinical governance guidelines](#).



Reporting serious reactions

Health professionals are encouraged to report suspected reactions, known as adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) particularly if they are unexpected or significant.

If a resident has an immediate serious reaction or is unwell in the days after a vaccination, **you can report it to either:**

- your local state or territory health unit (see details below), or
- directly with the Therapeutics Good Administration (tga.gov.au/reporting-problems).

Residential aged care facilities should also report serious reactions and events to the Vaccine Operations Centre on 1800 318 208 or COVID19VaccineOperationsCentre@Health.gov.au

Where to report serious reactions in each state / territory

State	Contact
NSW	1300 066 055 or NSW Health
Victoria	1300 882 924 (option 1) or www.safevac.org.au
Queensland	Your local Public Health Unit or Queensland Health Department
Western Australia	08 6456 0208 or WA Department of Health
ACT	02 5154 9800 or ACT Health
South Australia	1300 232 272 or SA Health
Northern Territory	Your local Public Health Unit or NT Department of Health
Tasmania	1800 671 738 or Tasmanian Department of Health

Frequency of select common adverse events reported within 7 days following each dose of Comirnaty (Pfizer) in phase II/III trial²⁶

	16-55 years of age		>55 years of age	
	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 1	Dose 2
Injection site pain	83%	78%	71%	66%
Fever	4%	16%	1%	11%
Fatigue	47%	59%	23%	51%
Headache	42%	52%	25%	39%
Chills	14%	35%	6%	23%
Muscle pain	21%	37%	14%	28%
Joint pain	11%	22%	9%	19%
Required paracetamol	28%	45%	20%	38%

Frequency of select common adverse events reported within 7 days following at least one dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in phase II/III trial aged >18 years of age⁴⁰

	18-55 years		56-69 years		≥70 years	
	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 1	Dose 2
Injection site pain	61%	49%	43%	34%	20%	10%
Injection site tenderness	76%	61%	67%	59%	49%	47%
Fatigue	76%	55%	50%	41%	41%	33%
Headache	65%	31%	50%	34%	41%	20%
Muscle pain	53%	35%	37%	24%	18%	18%
Fever	24%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%