



Australian Government

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

# After your vaccination

### What is a side effect?



After you have your vaccination, you might feel some **side effects**.

A side effect is something that can sometimes happen to people after they take medicine.

Side effects don't happen to everyone.



Most side effects won't make you very sick. We call these **common side effects**.

But some side effects can be serious.

These side effects are **extremely rare**.

## Side effects



Most side effects:

- are not serious
- go away on their own in 1 to 2 days.

Some **common** side effects include:

- pain or swelling in your arm where the needle went in
- a fever
- sore muscles or joints
- tiredness
- headaches
- chills.



**Rare** side effects include:

- redness or itchiness in your arm where the needle went in
- feeling like you might vomit
- feeling sick in your stomach





- lumps in your neck
- pain in your leg
- not sleeping well.

## Allergic reactions



Some people may experience an **allergic reaction** to the COVID-19 vaccine.

An allergic reaction is when your body reacts to something, such as food or medicine. For example, you might get an itchy rash or your tongue might get bigger.

## Serious but rare side effects



Serious side effects include:

- feeling sick or vomiting
- having trouble breathing

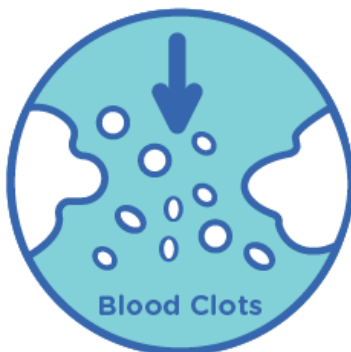


- **wheezing** – this means you make sounds you don't usually hear when you breathe
- feeling a very fast heartbeat
- pain in your leg
- falling down or fainting.

## Rare but serious side effects: Blood clots



Another serious side effect is blood clots. When blood gets thick and sticks together, we call it a blood clot.



This rare condition can cause serious long term disability or death. But these blood clots can be treated effectively.

Symptoms of this rare side effect can include:



- a very bad headache that:
  - starts at least 4 days after your vaccination
  - doesn't get any better if you take pain medicine
  - gets worse when you lie down.



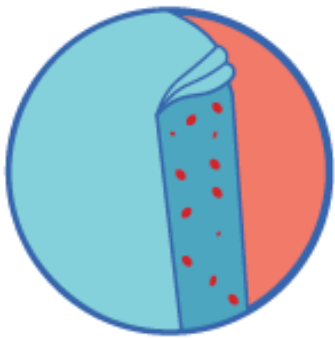
- blurry vision
- finding it hard to talk
- seizures



- pain in your chest or leg



- pain in your stomach that doesn't go away



- small spots under your skin that are not near where the needle went into your arm.

## What should you do if you feel side effects?



If you get any of these **serious side effects** or a **severe** allergic reaction after you get a COVID-19 vaccination, you should call an ambulance on 000 straight away.



If you have any **common** side effects that are bothering you, you can take pain medication.

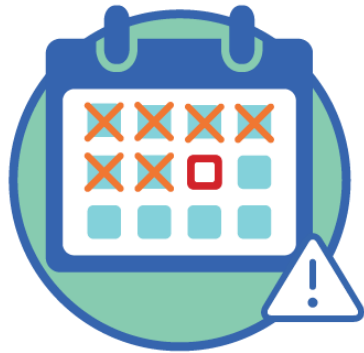
A simple pain medication like paracetamol or ibuprofen might be right for you.



Check with your doctor before you take any other types of pain medication.



You can also use a cold pack on your arm where the needle went in.



You should talk to your doctor if you:

- are worried about a side effect
- experience an allergic reaction
- have a side effect that lasts more than 1 to 2 days
- have a side effect that starts 4 to 28 days after your vaccination
- have a side effect that isn't in this fact sheet.

## Do you need to get a COVID-19 test after the vaccination?



Some of the side effects of the vaccination are the same as the **symptoms** of COVID-19. A symptom is a sign that you might be sick.



Some people might still get COVID-19 after their vaccination.





You should get a COVID-19 test if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, including:

- fever
- tiredness



- sore throat
- cough
- shortness of breath
- losing your sense of taste
- losing your sense of smell.



You also might need a COVID-19 test if:

- someone you have seen lately has COVID-19
- you live in a state or territory with a lot of COVID-19 cases.



If you're not sure, you should talk to your doctor.

## More information



You can visit the Department of Health website at [www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages](https://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines-languages) for more information about the vaccine in your language.



You can call the National Coronavirus Helpline on **1800 020 080**.

If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.