

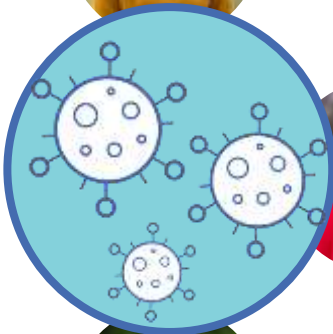


Australian Government

COVID-19 VACCINATION

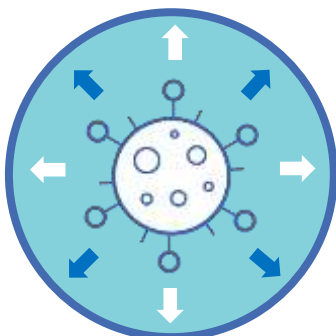
What is the COVID-19 vaccine? Is it safe?

17 June 2022



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is caused by a **virus** that has affected many people around the world.

A virus can spread from one person to another person and can cause illness or disease.



COVID-19 can spread:

- easily
- quickly.



A vaccine is medicine that:

- helps people fight a virus if they come in contact with it
- can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.



COVID-19 vaccines make antibodies.

Antibodies are the part of your blood that teaches your body how to fight viruses.



A **vaccination** is when you receive an injection of the vaccine. This is done with a needle.



The COVID-19 vaccination is free for everyone in Australia even if you don't have a Medicare card.



You can choose to have the vaccination.



Some people might need to have the vaccination because of their job. If you're not sure, you can ask your employer.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?



Scientists around the world have made different COVID-19 vaccines.



In Australia, the **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)** approves all vaccines before they can be used.



The TGA is a group of independent medical experts.

This means they make their own decisions using the scientific information they have.



The TGA only approves vaccines that:

- are safe
- work well.



After they approve a vaccine, the TGA:

- keeps a list of the vaccines they approve



- keeps track of the way the vaccine is working in the community.



This includes:

- how well the vaccine works
- how safe the vaccine is.



The TGA has approved 4 COVID-19 vaccines in Australia. They are called the:

- Pfizer vaccine – also called Comirnaty
- AstraZeneca vaccine – also called Vaxzevria



- Moderna vaccine – also called Spikevax
- Novavax vaccine – also called Nuvaxovid

Things to know about the vaccines



The vaccines do not have any COVID-19 in them.

This means that the vaccines can't give you COVID-19.



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.

You can find out about side effects from COVID-19 vaccines in this document:

www.health.gov.au/resources/translated/covid-19-vaccination-after-your-vaccination-other-languages



After your vaccination there is still a chance you might catch COVID-19 from other people.

This means everyone still needs to help slow the spread of COVID-19.



You should still:

- stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people



- wash your hands often with soap and water



- use hand sanitiser when you can't use soap



- you may want to wear a mask if you can't keep 1.5 meters from others



- stay home if you feel unwell



- get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptoms.



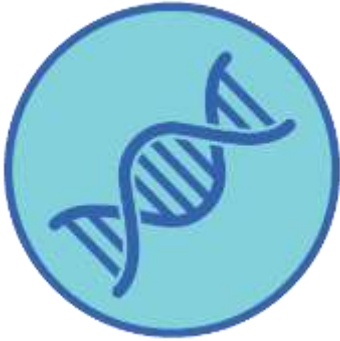
You cannot be tracked by having a COVID-19 vaccination. The COVID-19 vaccines do not have any tiny technology in them, such as:

- software
- microchips.



The COVID-19 vaccine will not make you **infertile**. If you are infertile, you can't:

- make a baby
- get pregnant.



The COVID-19 vaccines will not change your DNA.

Your DNA is special information about you that is in every cell in your body.



If you are not sure if you can have the vaccine, you should talk to your doctor first.

More information



You can visit the Department of Health website at 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**. Select option **8** for free interpreting services.