



Australian Government

COVID-19
✓ **VACCINATION**

Children's COVID-19 vaccination program – community kit

Date: 25 October 2022

How to use this kit

This kit can be used by organisations, schools and community groups to help provide trusted information to parents, carers and guardians. You can use it on websites and link to www.health.gov.au, in newsletters or other communication channels.

Within this kit you will find:

- Information you can use in newsletter articles and for website content.
- A handy resources fact sheet that can be printed.
- Social media content that you can use on your social channels.
- Posters that you can print and put up.

Information about COVID-19 vaccinations for children

Vaccination is the most effective way to protect children against infectious diseases.

Everyone aged 5 years and older is now eligible to book an appointment to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Vaccination is also [recommended for children aged 6 months to under 5 years in at risk population groups](#).

Vaccination against COVID-19 ensures you have done everything possible to keep your child and those around them safe from the virus.

While most children get a mild infection, some children do get very sick from COVID-19 and can have long term complications. You can read more about serious illness, long COVID, multisystem inflammatory syndrome in this [Australian Academy of Sciences article](#).

[Start a conversation with your child](#) about COVID-19 vaccines and invite them to share their thoughts about getting vaccinated. It is important to listen to their responses and answer any questions about COVID-19 vaccines in a way that will resonate with your child.

You can use the [COVID-19 vaccine clinic finder](#) to book a vaccination appointment for your child.

There is lots of information available about COVID-19 vaccines on the Department of Health and Aged Care website including specific pages for:

- [COVID-19 vaccines for children](#)
- [Pregnancy, breastfeeding and COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine information for people with disability and disability service providers](#)
- [National Coronavirus Helpline](#)

Fear of Needles

If your child is afraid of needles, you can speak to your healthcare provider about what can be done to help. Techniques like distraction or even preparing the vaccination area to numb the feeling of a needle can help.

For kids aged 5 years and over, it may help to attend a smaller, more familiar location, such as a local pharmacy or general practice. Large scale vaccination sites may be loud and busy and increase distress.

Let your vaccination provider know in advance if your child is afraid of needles so they can set aside enough time and make sure the process is not rushed or forced.

Stay up to date with the latest information and advice

It's important to stay up to date with the latest medical advice available on www.health.gov.au.

You can also discuss any concerns or questions you have about COVID-19 vaccination with your immunisation provider and/or your GP before your child receives the vaccine.

More information

For more information visit the Department of Health and Aged Care website at www.health.gov.au, or call **1800 020 080**, and press 8 for interpreting services.

Handy resources

There are many resources available that you may find helpful.

Vaccine Clinic Finder: Head to the Vaccine Clinic Finder to find a clinic near you and book in your children/s vaccine appointments.

Healthdirect Symptom Checker: To check if your symptoms relate to COVID-19, for advice on the next healthcare steps to take and to help you understand symptoms and possible signs of illness, causes and complications use the Symptom Checker.

Head to Health: Lean on the Head to Health website for information, tips and resources to support you and your loved ones' mental health during this time.

Downloadable Resources

- **Patient resources** “I got vaccinated for” colouring in activity


[COVID-19 vaccine information for people with disability and disability service providers](#): Information about COVID-19 vaccines for people with disability and people who work in the disability sector.

[COVID-19 vaccination information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#): Getting vaccinated protects you, your family, elders and community from getting really sick with COVID-19, or even dying.

[COVID-19 vaccine information in your language](#): Information about COVID-19 vaccines has been translated into multiple languages. Find information in your language.

[Is it true? Get the facts on COVID-19 vaccines](#): Find accurate, evidence-based answers to questions or misinformation about COVID-19 vaccines.

Social media

Social posts	Copy	Image
Post	<p>Effective preparation and distraction techniques are important. You could try:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Going to a smaller or more familiar location, such as a local pharmacy or general practice.2. Bring your child's favourite toys or books to create a positive experience and distraction.3. Let your vaccine provider know in advance if your child is afraid of needles. <p>Book your appointment at www.australia.gov.au</p>	 <p>The infographic is titled "FEAR OF needles?" in large, bold letters. Below the title, there are three numbered steps, each with an icon and a text box. Step 1 shows a pharmacy icon and says "1. Book in at a familiar location." Step 2 shows a toy cart icon and says "2. Bring your child's favourite toys to your appointment." Step 3 shows a doctor icon and says "3. Keep your vaccine provider in the loop." At the bottom left, there is a small red logo that says "ABN yourself AGAINST COVID-19".</p>