

# COVID-19 vaccine: FAQs

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## OFFICIAL

# Process of getting a vaccine

## Choice and consent

Do I have to get a vaccine?	<p>It is your choice to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Choosing to get vaccinated against COVID-19 will help keep you, Your loved ones and community safe.</p> <p>If you are working in the aged care sector, you must get at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose by 17 September 2021.</p>
Do I need to give consent to receive my vaccine?	<p>Yes, your consent is required before you can receive a vaccine. Medical personnel are legally obliged to make sure a person consents to a medical procedure, including receiving a vaccine, before the medical procedure can be done.</p>
I'm aged 18-59 years can I choose to get AstraZeneca?	<p>Adults aged 18 to 59 years are eligible to receive Pfizer. However you can choose to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine after you have discussed the risks and benefits with a qualified health professional and given their informed consent.</p> <p>Informed consent must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be for the specific procedure that is to be done</li><li>• can only be given after an explanation is provided to the recipient about the potential risks and benefits of the vaccine, the risks of not having it, and any alternative options.</li><li>• enable the vaccine recipient to seek more details or explanations about the vaccine or how its administered</li></ul>
My 16/17-year-old child is getting vaccinated. What consent is required?	<p>Anyone who gets vaccinated must provide appropriate consent. Consent can be provided verbally.</p> <p>People aged 16 or 17 must have a guardian's consent to be vaccinated. Their parent or guardian will need to attend the vaccination centre with them.</p>

## Cost

Is the COVID-19 vaccine free?	Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are free for Australian citizens, permanent residents and temporary visa holders, including international students and people seeking asylum.
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## Eligibility

When can I get vaccinated?	<p>Everyone aged 16 years old or older can now get a vaccine.</p> <p>For the most up to date information, view the <a href="#">who can get vaccinated page</a>.</p>
I'm not currently eligible – when will I be able to get vaccinated?	<p>Everyone aged 16 years old or older can now get a vaccine.</p> <p>Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation will provide further advice on the broader 12-15 year old age group in coming months. As more COVID-19 vaccine doses become available, more people will be able to get vaccinated.</p>

<p>Can I still get a COVID-19 vaccine if I am not an Australian citizen?</p>	<p>Yes. COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone living in Australia. You do not need to have Medicare card to get your COVID-19 vaccine. If you're not an Australian citizen you should <a href="#">register for an Individual Healthcare Identifier</a>.</p>
<p>Can I get my vaccine without an id?</p>	<p>Mandatory reporting of COVID-19 vaccinations to the Australian Immunisation Register is a legal requirement. Proof of identification is required so that your vaccination provider can record your vaccination (including every dose) in the Australian Immunisation Register. When you receive your vaccination, your vaccination provider will enter your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name</li> <li>• date of birth</li> <li>• contact details</li> <li>• gender</li> <li>• Medicare number or individual <a href="#">healthcare identifier</a></li> </ul> <p>After your vaccination you'll be able to access your immunisation history through your Medicare Online account, the Medicare Express Plus app and your My Health Record. If these channels are not suitable, you can request your immunisation history by phoning Services Australia on <a href="#">1800 653 809</a>. Proof of identity may also be required so your vaccination provider can confirm your eligibility for vaccination for certain reasons (e.g. <a href="#">access to a reserved Pfizer appointment</a>). If you're attending your usual GP clinic for vaccination, your clinic's records may be used as evidence. If you are eligible but don't have proof of your eligibility, you can complete an <a href="#">eligibility declaration form</a>.</p>

## Making an appointment

<p>Why is the Victorian Department of Health asking about my ethnicity, country of birth and preferred language?</p>	<p>This information is collected to help the Victorian Government decide how we support the community with further activities relating to COVID-19 and the vaccine rollout.</p>
<p>I've had my first dose – do I need to book to receive my second dose?</p>	<p>If you've already had your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, please book your second vaccine appointment as soon as possible. Don't wait to receive a reminder. For Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine you should get your second dose six weeks after your first dose. For AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine you should get your second dose 12 weeks after your first dose. If you get your COVID-19 vaccine at a <a href="#">doctor's clinic, pharmacy</a> or community health service ask them to book you in for your second dose on the same day you get your first dose. You can book your second appointment at a vaccination centre by <a href="#">booking online</a> or calling the Coronavirus Hotline on <a href="#">1800 675 398</a>.</p>

I live in regional Victoria and there are no vaccination centres near me – how can I get my COVID-19 vaccine?	You can get your COVID-19 vaccine at a doctor's clinic, <b>pharmacy</b> or community health service. Some pharmacies will also soon start to deliver COVID-19 vaccines. Find a service <a href="#">near you</a> .  More vaccination centres are opening up across Victoria to make sure everyone can get their COVID-19 vaccine. For more information about where your nearest vaccination centre is, visit <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres</a>
How can people who speak a language other than English book their vaccine appointment?	People who need an interpreter to book their COVID-19 vaccine can call the Coronavirus Hotline on <a href="tel:1800675398">1800 675 398</a> and select 0.
How can people who don't have access to a device or the internet book their appointment?	You can book your appointment by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on <a href="tel:1800675398">1800 675 398</a> . The hotline will help you find a vaccination centre near you and make your booking for you.  You can also get your COVID-19 vaccine by booking an appointment directly with a doctor, <b>pharmacy</b> , or community health service that is offering COVID-19 vaccines.  Friends and family members are encouraged to help their loved ones book their COVID-19 vaccine appointment.
I made a booking with the hotline – can I change it online?	You can change the date and time of your vaccination appointment online. To do this you will need to register an account using the same email address you gave the Coronavirus Hotline when booking your original appointment.  If you want to change the location where you'll receive your COVID-19 vaccine, you should call the hotline on <a href="tel:1800675398">1800 675 398</a> .
I made my first appointment with the hotline. Can I make my second appointment online?	You can book your second appointment online by visiting <a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment">www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment</a> .  You should register an account using the same email address you gave the Coronavirus Hotline when you booked your original appointment.

## Vaccination centres

When can I get vaccinated?	For the most up to date information, view the <a href="#">who can get vaccinated page</a> .
How do I make an appointment at a vaccination centre?	You can book an appointment at a vaccination centre by using the <a href="#">online booking system</a> or calling the Coronavirus Hotline on <a href="tel:1800675398">1800 675 398</a> . If you need an interpreter, press 0.
How do I make an appointment at a doctor's clinic, <b>pharmacy</b> , or	You can find a participating doctor, <b>pharmacy</b> or community health service through the <a href="#">Australian Government Eligibility Checker</a> .  You can book your appointment online or by calling the vaccine provider nearest to you.

community health service?	
I'm 18-39 years old. Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?	<p>Victorians aged 16-39 years old are eligible to receive the Pfizer vaccine at vaccination centres across Victoria.</p> <p>People aged 18-39 years old can choose to get the AstraZeneca vaccine at vaccination centres, participating doctor's clinics, pharmacy or community health service if they provide informed consent.</p>
Where is the drive-through vaccination centre?	<p>There are four drive-through vaccination centres located in Melbourne.</p> <p>Check the <a href="#">vaccination centres page to find the drive through closest to you.</a></p>
What are the opening hours for the drive-through centre?	<p>Check the <a href="#">vaccination centres</a> page before you attend a site to get up to date information on current opening hours and wait times.</p>
How do I get vaccinated at the drive-through centre?	<p>You can only receive a COVID-19 vaccine at the drive-through centre if you are currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must make a <a href="#">booking online</a> or by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.</li> <li>• Each person in the car needs to have a booking.</li> <li>• Do not attend a vaccine appointment if you <a href="#">have any COVID-19 symptoms</a> that may be connected to COVID-19. Learn about <a href="#">where to get tested for COVID-19</a>.</li> <li>• Check the <a href="#">vaccination centres</a> page before you attend the site to get more information on opening hours and wait times.</li> <li>• Wear a mask and follow all staff directions when you go to the site.</li> </ul> <p>At the site, you will be screened for eligibility, symptoms and isolation status at entry. You will not be allowed to get your vaccination if you are ineligible. Check <a href="#">who can get a COVID-19 vaccine</a>.</p> <p>Staff at the centre will tell you when to move your car.</p> <p>After your vaccination, staff will monitor you for 15 minutes while you stay in your car. Staff will tell you what to do if you feel unwell during this time.</p>
I'm a carer for someone with a disability/medical condition. Am I allowed to drive them to the drive-through centre to get their vaccination?	<p>You can drive someone you are caring for to the drive-through vaccination centre if you are following <a href="#">COVIDSafe settings</a>. You must both wear a mask when you go to the centre.</p> <p>People are not allowed to leave their cars when they go to the drive-through site. The site <b>does not have</b> facilities such as toilets.</p> <p>If you need to leave the site before your vaccination, alert staff by honking your horn and they will give you instructions on how to exit.</p> <p>Check the <a href="#">vaccination centres</a> page before you attend a site to get more information on opening hours and wait times.</p>

	<p>You can also get a COVID-19 vaccine at participating doctor's clinics, <a href="#">pharmacy</a> and community health services, or at Victorian Government <a href="#">vaccination centres</a>. Many Victorian vaccination centres have accessible facilities.</p> <p>You can book a vaccine appointment by using the <a href="#">online booking system</a> or calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. For an interpreter, press 0.</p> <p>Learn more about <a href="#">how to get a COVID-19 vaccine</a>.</p> <p>Read <a href="#">vaccine information for people with a disability</a>.</p>
I have a medical condition (e.g. serious allergic reaction, past reaction to a vaccine, syncope post-vaccination). Can I go to the drive-through centre for my vaccination?	<p>You should speak to your doctor <a href="#">or regular health professional</a> about getting a COVID-19 vaccine before your appointment. It is recommended that you book to receive your COVID-19 vaccine at a doctor's clinic or community health service. Medical advice is not able to be provided at the drive-through vaccination centre.</p>

## Vaccination Centre vehicle-related queries

Can I walk into the site for a vaccination?	<p>No, you must <a href="#">attend</a> in a car in order to get a vaccine. <a href="#">Some of the drive-through centres also have a separate vaccination centre at the same location that accepts</a> people walking up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Sandown Racecourse</a> - 591-659 Princes Hwy, Springvale</li> <li>• <a href="#">Melton vaccination hub (indoors)</a> - Former Bunnings, 149 Barries Road, Melton West VIC 3337</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Check the vaccination centres</a> page for opening hours.</p>
I have a bus/truck/non-car vehicle. Can I go to the drive-through site?	<p>There are limits on the size of the vehicle that can be accommodated at this centre. Only cars and small vans (can fit in a normal car park size) can use this drive through.</p> <p><a href="#">Bicycles and motorbikes are not accepted at the drive through hub.</a></p>
I want to a large group of people on a bus to the drive-through site to get them all vaccinated. What do I do?	<p>This drive through centre isn't able to deliver vaccines to large groups in buses. Everyone receiving a COVID-19 vaccine must be seated next to a window that opens so that staff can reach your upper arm.</p>
I have a five-seat car but want to get six people vaccinated. What do I do?	<p>The drive-through site will only accept cars that observe legal requirements regarding passenger limits and passenger safety.</p> <p>People receiving a COVID-19 vaccine must be seated next to a window that opens so that staff can reach your upper arm</p>

## Receiving a vaccine (first and second dose)

How many injections do I need?	If you get the Pfizer vaccine, you must have two injections at least six weeks apart. If you get the AstraZeneca vaccine, you must have two injections 12 weeks apart.
Where can I get vaccinated?	<p>You can get the COVID-19 vaccine at Victorian Government vaccination centres at more than 50 locations across Victoria.</p> <p>You can also get the COVID-19 vaccine at <b>doctor's clinics, community health services, and pharmacies</b>. We encourage people who are pregnant to get vaccinated at their doctor's clinic or health care provider.</p> <p><b>People aged 16-39 years will only be able to get Pfizer through state vaccination centres. The Australian Government will announce when Pfizer vaccines are available to people aged 16 – 39 years at doctor's clinics, community health services and pharmacies.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Learn more about vaccination centre locations and opening hours.</a></p>
What if I don't receive my second dose within the suggested timeframe?	Even if the second dose is late, you will not require any repeat doses. Talk to your doctor <b>or regular health professional</b> if you have any questions about the timing of your second dose.
I received my first dose of the vaccine overseas. Can I get my second dose in Australia?	<p>People returning to Australia from overseas who received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine available in Australia (for example, e.g. Pfizer or AstraZeneca) should complete their vaccination course by receiving a second dose of the same vaccine in Australia.</p> <p>People returning to Australia from overseas who received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine <b>approved for emergency use</b> by the World Health Organization (WHO) but that is not available in Australia should complete their vaccination with a second dose of the vaccine they are eligible for in Australia (for example Pfizer or AstraZeneca)</p> <p>People returning to Australia who received a first and/or second dose of a vaccine <b>not approved</b> for emergency use by the WHO are not considered to have completed an immunisation course. So it's recommended they complete a course (2-doses) with a Therapeutic Goods Administration provisionally approved COVID-19 vaccine (for example Pfizer, AstraZeneca or Moderna).</p> <p>The recommended interval for administration of a second COVID-19 vaccine dose in this context is 4 to 12 weeks after the first dose (unless the first dose is Pfizer vaccine in which case the recommended interval is 3-6 weeks). A longer interval is acceptable if the second dose cannot be administered during this time window.</p>
Are the vaccines interchangeable?	<p>The Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines are not considered interchangeable in Australia, however some circumstances may require doses of different vaccines. Vaccines should only be interchanged on advice from a medical professional.</p> <p>This includes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Someone who had a severe allergic reaction to their first vaccine and is advised by a medical professional to have a different vaccine for their second dose.</li> <li>• Someone who has experienced a severe adverse event following immunisation with a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, for example Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS)</li> <li>• People who have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine overseas</li> <li>• Pregnancy</li> </ul>
Why has the advice on timing between Pfizer doses changed?	<p>It is now recommended that you get your second Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine six weeks after your first dose.</p> <p>The change to timing between Pfizer vaccine doses will allow more Victorians to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in coming weeks.</p> <p>The change in timing between vaccine doses is consistent with Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation advice on the spacing of vaccine doses.</p>

## Access to reserved appointments

Who can access reserved appointments?	<p>To help people who are at higher risk of contracting or getting very sick from COVID-19 get vaccinated, appointments are being reserved at vaccination centres. The following people can access these appointments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All health care workers</li> <li>• Public and private residential aged care and disability care workers and residents</li> <li>• Hotel quarantine and border workers</li> <li>• Household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers</li> <li>• Meat and seafood processing worker and associated cold chain transportation</li> <li>• People who are vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19, including residents of high risk accommodation, <a href="#">specified medical condition or people with a significant disability</a>.</li> </ul>
Which vaccine will I receive at a reserved appointment?	<p>People aged 18-39 who have already booked for their first vaccine dose will be offered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. People may choose to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine, if they provide informed consent.</p> <p>People aged 18-39 who have already had a first dose will be offered a second dose of the same vaccine brand as their first dose.</p> <p>The following people will receive Pfizer regardless of their age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All health care workers</li> <li>• Public and private residential aged care and disability care workers and residents</li> <li>• Hotel quarantine and border workers</li> <li>• Household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meat and seafood processing worker and associated cold chain transportation</li> <li>• People who are vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19, including residents of high risk accommodation, <a href="#">specified medical condition or people with a significant disability</a>.</li> </ul>
How do I book a reserved appointment?	To book a reserved appointment call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.
Why are appointments being reserved for some people?	Appointments at vaccination centres are being reserved to help people who are at higher risk of contracting or getting very sick from COVID-19 get vaccinated.

## COVID-19 vaccines

### Brands

Which COVID-19 vaccine will I receive?	<p>Two vaccines are being used in Australia: the Pfizer vaccine and the AstraZeneca vaccine. Both vaccines protect you against COVID-19.</p> <p>Most people 60 years and older will receive the AstraZeneca vaccine, however, if you are between the ages of 18-39 you can choose to get your AstraZeneca with informed consent. View an <a href="#">AstraZeneca factsheet in your language</a>.</p> <p>Victorians aged 16-59 years will be offered the Pfizer vaccine as the preferred vaccine for people under 60 years old. View a <a href="#">Pfizer factsheet in your language</a>.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Pfizer vaccine</a> is also offered to all pregnant people, health care workers, quarantine and border workers, household contacts of hotel quarantine workers and residential aged and disability care workers and residents aged 16 or over.</p>
Is the Pfizer vaccine better than the AstraZeneca vaccine, because AstraZeneca vaccine is not recommended for people under 60 years of age?	<p>The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommends the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer is preferred for adults aged under 60 years.</p> <p>For people 60 years and over, ATAGI continues to advise that the benefits of vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh the risks associated with vaccination. This recommendation is based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the increasing risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 in older adults (and hence a higher benefit from vaccination) and;</li> <li>• the increased risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following AstraZeneca vaccine in those under 60 years.</li> </ul>

	There appears to be a small risk of Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) in people 60 years and over but this risk appears to be lower than in younger people.
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## Efficacy

How effective are the COVID-19 vaccines?	COVID-19 vaccines are very effective and help prevent people from getting COVID-19. They also help stop serious illness and death in people who get infected with COVID-19.
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## Safety

Can I get COVID-19 from the COVID-19 vaccine?	No, COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the COVID-19 virus. You cannot get COVID-19 from these vaccines.
Are you documenting the data around people experiencing serious side effects and vaccine related deaths?	Yes, the Victorian Government is collecting data on side effects after COVID-19 vaccination. This data is being collected and closely monitored. The Victorian Specialist immunisation Services (VicSIS) network oversees and provides specialist services for people those identified as at-risk for serious side effects or those who experience serious side effects in the context of a COVID-19 vaccine.  The network was set up to ensure that all Victorians have safe and equal access to COVID-19 vaccination. The Network links the Victorian Department of Health, Surveillance of Adverse Events Following Vaccination in the Community (SAEFVIC) and the Specialist Immunisation Services across the Victoria.

## Side effects

Will I get side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?	Like all vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects. Expected side effects are generally mild and last a day or two on average.  You will be watched by a health professional for 15 minutes after your vaccination to make sure you are okay.  If you are feeling unwell after getting your COVID-19 vaccine, you should seek immediate medical care.
What symptoms should I watch out for after I have received the AstraZeneca vaccine?	There is a very rare risk of serious side effects that can cause blood clots after receiving the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. This condition is known as thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS).  <b>After your AstraZeneca vaccine, go to the doctor straight away if you:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a headache that can start anytime following vaccination and last beyond 48 hours post vaccination. It might also:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ be mild (light) or strong (hurt a lot).</li><li>○ feel worse when you lie down.</li><li>○ go away for a little while when you take pain relief like paracetamol,</li><li>○ but then come back.</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Throw up (or you feel like you want to throw up). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If you have this symptom remember to stay hydrated.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Have blurry vision.</li> <li>○ Have weakness in your arms, legs or face.</li> <li>○ Find it hard to speak.</li> <li>○ Feel sleepy or confused.</li> <li>○ Have seizures.</li> <li>○ Have pain in your abdomen (tummy) that won't go away.</li> <li>○ Find it hard to take deep breaths, or your chest hurts.</li> <li>○ Find your legs are sore, red or swollen.</li> </ul> <p>Have small blood spots under your skin, more bruising than normal or bleeding. (Small blood spots where the needle went in are OK).</p> <p>If you experience any of these symptoms, seek immediate medical attention. Tell the doctor you have recently had the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>When diagnosed early, there are effective treatments available and many people recover without long term impacts.</p> <p>For more information about thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome, visit <a href="http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/thrombosis-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts">www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/thrombosis-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts</a></p>
I've had the Pfizer vaccine – what are the symptoms of serious side effects I should watch for?	<p>There is a very rare risk of serious side effects that can impact your heart after receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. These conditions are called myocarditis or pericarditis.</p> <p>After your Pfizer vaccine, go to the doctor straight away if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You feel pain or pressure in your chest.</li> <li>• It hurts when you breathe.</li> <li>• You find it hard to take deep breaths.</li> <li>• You have an irregular heartbeat, skipped beats or 'fluttering' feelings in your chest.</li> <li>• You faint.</li> </ul> <p>If you experience these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. Tell the doctor you have recently had a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>When diagnosed early, there are effective treatments available and many people recover without long term impacts.</p>

## Supply

Is there enough supply of the Pfizer vaccine to meet the needs of all Victorians?	<p>There will be enough of both Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to vaccinate the people with two doses who are currently eligible. There are currently limited Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses so you might need to try a couple of times to find an available appointment.</p> <p>Victoria is working with the Australian Government to secure more doses.</p>
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## After you are vaccinated

How do I access my COVID-19 vaccine certificate?	Once you've had your vaccine, you'll be able to get an immunisation history statement to prove your vaccination status. You can get proof of vaccinations from your Medicare immunisation history at <a href="http://my.gov.au">my.gov.au</a> , or by calling Medicare on <b>1800 653 809</b> .
I've had a COVID-19 vaccine do I need to wear a face mask?	Yes, even if you've had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine you must continue to wear a face mask in line with current advice. Learn more about <a href="#">when to wear face masks</a> .
I've had a COVID-19 vaccine – do I need follow public health restrictions?	Yes, even when you've had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine you must follow COVIDSafe behaviours to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Make sure you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wash your hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitiser when you can't wash your hands</li><li>• Keep 1.5 metres distance from other people</li><li>• Wear a face mask <a href="#">when required</a>.</li><li>• Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow</li><li>• Follow current <a href="#">public health restrictions</a>.</li><li>• <a href="#">Get tested</a> for COVID-19 and stay home until you receive a negative result if you:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ feel even a little unwell</li><li>◦ have been to an <a href="#">exposure site</a></li><li>◦ have been in close contact with someone who might have COVID-19</li></ul></li></ul>

## Communities

### Information for multicultural communities

Will there be interpreters at the vaccination centres?	You can ask an interpreter to be at your appointment by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on <b>1800 675 398</b> and pressing 0. Ask the interpreter to help you make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at a Victorian Government vaccination centre.  Everyone who gets a COVID-19 vaccine must be able to understand what they are told at their vaccination appointment and give their consent.  View the <a href="#">Australian Government's translated information about COVID-19 vaccines</a> .
Where can I find resources in other languages?	View <a href="#">vaccine information from the Australian Government</a> in your language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• View other <a href="#">translated resources from the Victorian Government</a>.</li></ul>
What strategies are being used to improve health literacy, train community leaders	Engaging with communities of all sizes is vital to the success of the vaccination program.  The Victorian Department of Health has already run many vaccine confidence sessions for multicultural communities to ensure multicultural communities have the

<p>and to connect with small multicultural communities with limited English proficiency?</p>	<p>information they need about the COVID-19 vaccination program. To organise one for your community please email COVIDvaccination@health.vic.gov.au</p> <p>There are over 50 clinical and community champions that can speak to your local community including bilingual and bicultural workers.</p> <p>Our clinical and community champions can come along to an existing class or community or event or celebration to discuss and provide information about vaccination. This is often a very effective way of talking to people about the vaccine in a relaxed setting. Please get in touch to discuss how we can support vaccine information at important events in your community.</p>
<p>What are some examples of vaccine focused material made for multicultural communities?</p>	<p>'Back to the Good Things' is a video campaign released by Victorian Council of Social Services to highlight the benefits of getting vaccinated and featuring diverse community members.</p> <p>You can get versions of the video with captions in Arabic, Dari, Dinka, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Karen, Simplified Chinese and Vietnamese here: <a href="https://vcoss.org.au/advocacy/goodthings/">https://vcoss.org.au/advocacy/goodthings/</a></p> <p>North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network have also released videos featuring community leaders: <a href="https://nwmphn.org.au/for-community/campaigns/get-vaccinated-against-covid-19/">https://nwmphn.org.au/for-community/campaigns/get-vaccinated-against-covid-19/</a></p> <p>These videos are an example of people from different cultural groups sharing their vaccine experience which is an important way to encourage people to get vaccinated.</p>

## Information for LGBTIQ+ communities

<p>Is it safe for transgender and gender diverse people who are receiving hormone replacement therapy to get a COVID-19 vaccine?</p>	<p>Yes, people who are taking all forms of hormone therapy can safely get a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>The extremely rare blood clotting condition associated with the first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine is not associated with hormone use.</p> <p>If you have questions about getting the COVID-19 vaccine, the best person to speak to is your doctor <b>or regular health professional</b>.</p>
<p>Is it safe for people who are taking prep or anti-retrovirals to get a COVID-19 vaccine?</p>	<p>Yes, people who are taking pre-exposure prophylaxis medications (PREP) or receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS can safely get a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>If you have questions about getting the COVID-19 vaccine, the best person to speak to is your doctor <b>or regular health professional</b>.</p>

## Children and young people

<p>Is the vaccine safe for children?</p>	<p>The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children aged over 12 years old. <b>Young people can get a COVID-19 vaccine if they are aged 16 years or older.</b></p>
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	<p>Currently young people aged 12 years and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine if they have an <a href="#">underlying medical condition</a> or if they are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.</p> <p>More young people will become eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine as the vaccine rollout continues and more people are able to get vaccinated.</p>
Will children aged under 18 years with chronic health conditions be vaccinated?	<p>Yes, young people aged 12 years and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine if they have an underlying medical condition.</p> <p><a href="#">All young people aged 16 years and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine.</a></p> <p>To view who is currently eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccine, visit <a href="#">who can get vaccinated</a>.</p>
Can young people aged under 18 years with a disability be vaccinated?	<p><a href="#">Young people aged 12 years and older can get a COVID-19 vaccine if they are living with significant disability requiring frequent assistance with activities of daily living.</a></p> <p><a href="#">All young people aged 16 years and over can get a COVID-19 vaccine.</a></p>
Which COVID-19 vaccine will young people receive?	<p>Only the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for young people aged 12-18 years. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is the recommended vaccine.</p> <p>The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine has only been approved for people aged over 18 years.</p>
Have clinical trials been conducted to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children?	<p>Yes, the Therapeutic Goods Association (TGA) has carefully evaluated the evidence of the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine for young people. This evidence includes clinical studies with young people aged 12 – 15 years. An independent expert advisory committee on vaccines also reviewed the evidence and supported the approval of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for young people.</p> <p>The TGA also monitors evidence of vaccine use in other countries where the Pfizer vaccine is being provided to young people.</p> <p>You can read more about the approval process vaccines go through before they can be used in Australia by visiting the <a href="#">TGA website</a>.</p>
When will other young people be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?	<p>Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation will provide further advice on the broader 12-15 year old age group in coming months. As more COVID-19 vaccine doses become available, more people will be able to get vaccinated.</p>
When will children under the age of 12 be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine?	<p>Medical experts' advice and Therapeutic Goods Association advice will continue to review evidence of the safety of COVID-19 vaccines for children. COVID-19 vaccines will only be recommended for children under the age of 12 when there is strong evidence that they are safe and effective.</p>

## Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility

### General information

Where can I get more information about COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy,	The <a href="#">Australian Government has information for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy</a> .
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## Pregnancy

Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant?	<p>Yes, you are eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination at any stage of pregnancy. We encourage people who are pregnant and want to get vaccinated to do so at their doctor's clinic or health care provider.</p> <p>People who are pregnant can also get vaccinated at Victoria's vaccination centres. If you are pregnant, talk to your doctor <b>or regular health professional</b> before you get a COVID-19 vaccine.</p>
I received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, then found out I was pregnant. What do I do?	<p>Pregnant people who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can receive a second dose of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer.</p> <p>Pregnant people should speak with their health care provider about the best choice for them.</p>
What research supports pregnant people getting the COVID-19 vaccine?	<p>The Australian Government has updated its advice for people who are pregnant in relation to COVID-19 vaccines:</p> <p>Pregnant people can have the <a href="#">Pfizer vaccine</a> at any stage of pregnancy. This recommendation is based on expert advice from both the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and <a href="#">Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG)</a>. <a href="#">Read the joint ATAGI and RANZCOG statement about vaccination for pregnant women</a></p>
How safe is the COVID-19 vaccine for my unborn baby?	<p>Global surveillance data from large numbers of pregnant women have not found any significant safety concerns with COVID-19 vaccines given at any stage of pregnancy. There is also evidence of antibody in blood and breastmilk, which may offer protection to infants through passive immunity.</p>

## Breastfeeding and fertility

Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine if I am breastfeeding?	Yes, if you are breastfeeding you can have the Pfizer or AstraZeneca vaccine. You do not need to stop breastfeeding after vaccination.
Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine if I am trying to become pregnant?	People who are trying to become pregnant do not need to delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination.

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