



Australian Government

COVID-19
✓ **VACCINATION**

COVID-19 vaccine



The Pfizer vaccine

Easy Read fact sheet



The Australian Government wrote this fact sheet.
When you see the word 'we', it means the
Australian Government.



We wrote this fact sheet in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



You can ask for help to read
this fact sheet. A friend, family
member or support person
may be able to help you.



What is this fact sheet about?



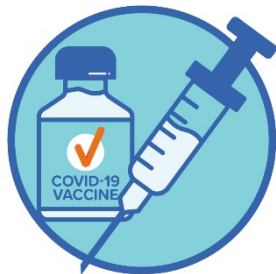
A **vaccine** is a type of medicine that:

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



The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect:

- you
- your family
- the community.

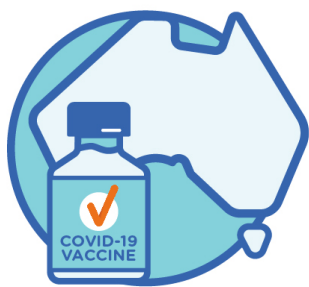


A **vaccination** is when you receive an injection of the vaccine. This is done with a needle.

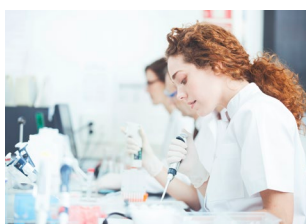


You can bring someone you trust with you to your COVID-19 vaccination, such as a:

- family member
- friend
- support worker or carer.



We want to give everyone in Australia a chance to have a COVID-19 vaccination.



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.



When someone is independent, they:



- don't work for the government
- make their own decisions.



The TGA makes sure the medicines we use in Australia work well.



The TGA has approved the Pfizer vaccine.



The Pfizer vaccine is a COVID-19 vaccine.
It is also known as the Comirnaty vaccine.



At first the TGA said only people aged 16 years or older should get the Pfizer vaccine.



But they have updated their advice to include children aged 12 to 15.



ATAGI have also changed their advice for women who are:

- pregnant
- breastfeeding
- trying to have a baby.

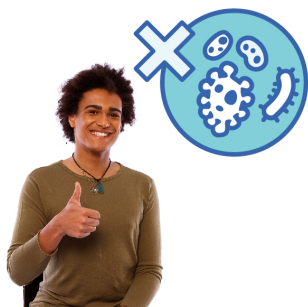


You can find out more in our new fact sheets on the Department of Health website at

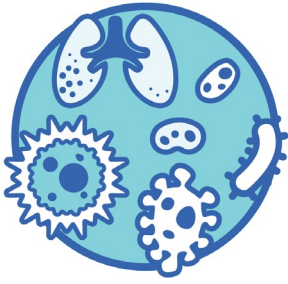
www.health.gov.au/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources



The Pfizer vaccine doesn't have any COVID-19 in it.



You can't get the virus from the vaccine.



But the Pfizer vaccine can safely teach your body how to:

- know if COVID-19 is there
- fight COVID-19.



You need to get 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine for it to work in the right way.



You need to get 2 doses of the same vaccine.



Even if you get the Pfizer vaccine, there is a chance you still might catch COVID-19 from other people.

This means you still need to:



- stay at least 1.5m away from other people



- wash your hands often with soap and water.



If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitiser.



You still need to wear a mask if your state or territory government says you need to.

If you feel sick with the symptoms of COVID-19,
you need to:



- stay at home



- get a COVID-19 test.

Is the Pfizer vaccine safe?



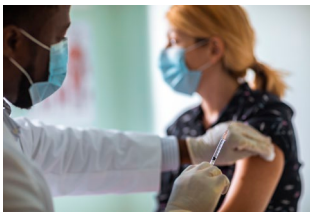
Researchers have run a large **clinical trial** of the Pfizer vaccine.



A clinical trial is research to test if a vaccine:

- is safe
- works well.

In a clinical trial, researchers:



- give people the vaccine



- keep track of these people to make sure the vaccine works well.



44,000 people took part in the Pfizer vaccine clinical trial.

The clinical trial included people:



- aged 65 years or older



- with other health problems.



The clinical trial showed that people who get 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine are much less likely to get sick from COVID-19.



There is no **evidence** that the Pfizer vaccine causes **blood clots**.

It is made in a different way.



Evidence is proof that something is true.



When blood gets thick, we call it a blood clot.



There are safe blood clots, like when you get a small cut and it stops bleeding.



But there are also blood clots that are not safe.

Who should not have the Pfizer vaccination?



You should not have the Pfizer vaccine if you had a strong **allergic reaction** to any of the ingredients in this vaccine in the past.



An allergic reaction is when your body reacts to something, such as food or medicine.

An allergic reaction could be:



- an itchy rash



- when you find it hard to breathe



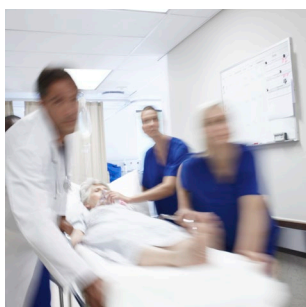
- your lips or tongue gets bigger



- your heart beats faster.



Anaphylaxis is a strong allergic reaction.



Strong allergic reactions are rare. But they can be life-threatening.



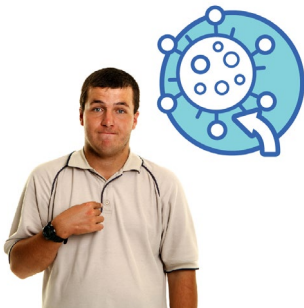
You might need to talk to your doctor before you make an appointment for the Pfizer vaccination.



You should tell your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to any vaccine or medicine in the past.



You should not have a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine if you have a strong allergic reaction to the first dose.

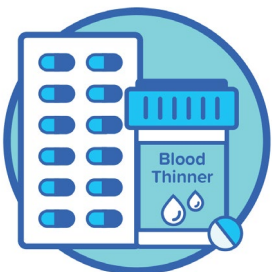


You should talk to your doctor first if you have had COVID-19 before.



You should talk to your doctor if you have:

- any allergies
- anaphylaxis.



You should talk to your doctor if you are taking any kind of medicine that thins your blood.



You should also talk to your doctor if you are **immunocompromised**.



If you are immunocompromised, you have a weakened immune system.



This means it is harder for your body to fight:

- infections
- other diseases.



You might need to have the Pfizer vaccine on a different day if you have had any other vaccines in the last 7 days.



Even if you have any of the conditions we talk about above, you might still be able to have the Pfizer vaccination.



You can talk to your doctor about what is right for you.



Or you can ask your support person to put you in touch with a doctor.



If your doctor tells you that you can't have the Pfizer vaccine, you might be able to have a different COVID-19 vaccine.

More information



You can call the Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787**.

They are open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.



You can visit the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au for more information about the vaccine.



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**.



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.



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