



Australian Government

COVID-19
✓ **VACCINATION**

COVID-19 vaccine



The AstraZeneca 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 medicine that:

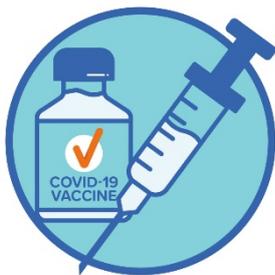


- helps people fight a virus if they come into contact with it
- can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.

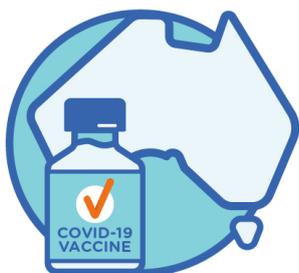


The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect:

- you
- your family
- the community.



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



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 part of the Australian Government.



The TGA only approves vaccines that:



- are safe
- work well.



The TGA has approved the AstraZeneca vaccine.



The AstraZeneca vaccine is a COVID-19 vaccine.



The TGA said only people aged 18 years or older should receive the AstraZeneca vaccine.

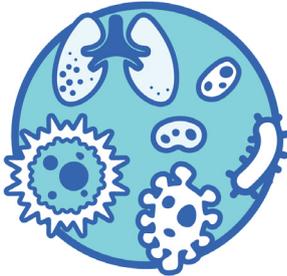


The AstraZeneca vaccine doesn't have any COVID-19 in it.



You can't get the virus from the vaccine.

But the AstraZeneca 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 AstraZeneca vaccine for it to work in the right way.



You need to get the second dose 12 weeks after the first dose.



You need to get 2 doses of the same vaccine.



Even if you get the AstraZeneca 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.

We explain these symptoms on pages 14–15.

Is the AstraZeneca vaccine safe?



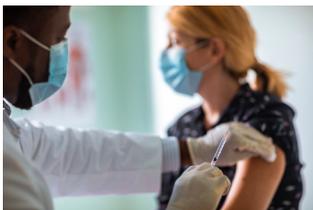
Researchers have run large **clinical trials** of the AstraZeneca vaccine.



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.



Over 60,000 people are taking part in the AstraZeneca vaccine clinical trial.



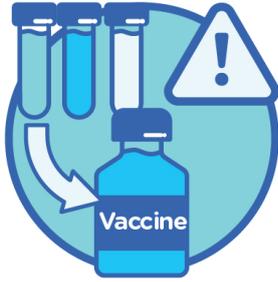
In the United Kingdom, more than 1.5 million people have already received 2 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.



All of the evidence tells us that getting 2 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine helps your body to:

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

Who should not have the AstraZeneca vaccination?



You should not have the AstraZeneca 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



- you find it hard to breathe



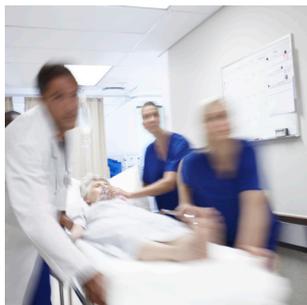
- your lips or tongue get bigger



- 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 AstraZeneca 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 AstraZeneca vaccine if you have a strong allergic reaction to the first dose.

You should talk to your doctor first if you:



- are pregnant



- 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.

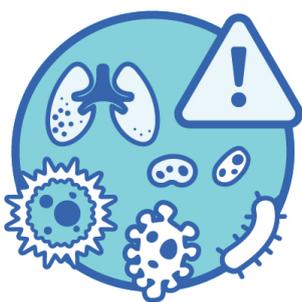


You should also talk to your doctor if you are **immunocompromised**.



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

This means that it is harder for your body to fight:



- infections



- other diseases.



You might need to have the AstraZeneca vaccine on a different day if you have had any other vaccines in the last 14 days.

You might need to change your appointment if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, including:



- fever



- sore throat



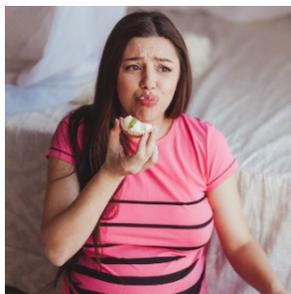
- cough



- tiredness



- shortness of breath



- losing your sense of taste



- losing your sense of smell.



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



You can talk to your doctor about your personal circumstances.



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 AstraZeneca vaccine, you might be able to have another 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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