Moderna vaccine side effects

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you and your family from COVID-19.

Now available to individuals aged 6 and over, the Moderna vaccine protects you against contracting the virus.

With two doses of the Moderna vaccine, you are significantly less likely to become acutely unwell or need to go to hospital if you get COVID-19.

This high level of protection also applies to new variants of COVID-19, such as the Delta and Omicron variant.

Just like other vaccines, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine has side effects. It is normal to feel one or more side effects, such as feeling sore where you got your injection, swollen or tender lymph nodes (particularly in the armpit), being tired, having sore muscles, having a headache and feeling nauseous. These common side effects can last for approximately 1-2 days after your vaccine. Always go to your doctor if you feel unwell.

Less common symptoms

Serious side effects are very rare.

You may experience the following uncommon side effects after you receive your vaccine:

- severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)
- pericarditis (inflammation of the outer lining of the heart)
- You should see your doctor if you are worried about any of these side effects.

You should seek medical attention after vaccination if your child has:

- symptoms of a severe allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat, or if your child collapses
- chest pain, pressure or discomfort
- irregular heartbeat, skipped beats or 'fluttering'
- fainting
- shortness of breath, or pain with breathing
- new or unexpected symptoms, or if you are worried about a potential side effect
- an expected side effect of the vaccine that has not gone away after a few days, like headache, fever or chills.

Why we look for these symptoms

While rare, some people may have an allergic reaction to the vaccine, or to an ingredient in the vaccine. If you have any of these symptoms, it is important you see your doctor. And if you think you

are having a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis), call 000 immediately.

COVID-19 vaccines in Australia must pass lots of safety tests before they can be given to people. The Therapeutic Goods Administration is responsible for checking vaccine safety and approving vaccines for use in Australia.

Before you get a COVID-19 vaccine, the person giving you the vaccine will ask you some important questions to make sure you get the COVID-19 vaccine that is safe for you.

You can use the COVID-19 vaccine side effect checker by visiting www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-side-effect-checker. For more information and to make a booking for your vaccine, visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine or call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 673 398. For an interpreter, press 0.

To receive this document in another format, phone 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au

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