

COVID-19 vaccine: FAQs

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Process of getting a vaccine

Choice and consent

<p>Do I have to get a vaccine?</p>	<p>Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 will help keep you, your loved ones and community safe. Vaccination is voluntary.</p> <p>If you are working in the aged care sector, you are required to have at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose by 17 September 2021.</p>
<p>Do I need to give consent to receive my vaccine?</p>	<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>
<p>I'm aged 18-59 years, can I request AstraZeneca?</p>	<p>Pfizer and Moderna are the preferred COVID-19 vaccines for people aged 12 – 59 years.</p> <p>People aged over 18 can choose to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine after they have discussed the risks and benefits with a qualified health professional and given their informed consent.</p>
<p>My child is getting vaccinated. What consent is required?</p>	<p>Anyone who gets vaccinated must provide appropriate consent. Consent can be provided verbally or in writing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For young people aged under 18, consent can be provided verbally by a parent or guardian who attends a vaccination appointment. A parent or guardian can provide written consent by signing a consent form. In the absence of written or verbal consent from a parent or guardian, people aged 12 - 17 may provide their own consent, if they are assessed as having decision making capacity by a senior and experienced immuniser.
<p>Can I take my foster child to get vaccinated?</p>	<p>Young people aged 12 to 17 must have a guardian's consent to be vaccinated unless they are assessed by a senior and experienced immuniser as having decision making capacity. Their parent or guardian (including foster parents) can attend the vaccination centre with them.</p>

Cost

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

<p>When can I get vaccinated?</p>	<p>Everyone aged 12 years or older can now get a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>For the most up to date information, view the who can get vaccinated page.</p>
<p>I'm not currently eligible – when will I be able to get vaccinated?</p>	<p>Everyone aged 12 years or older can now get a vaccine.</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.</p> <p>You do not need an Individual Healthcare Identifier or a Medicare card to get a COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you do not have a Medicare card, you can apply for an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI). • Individual Healthcare Identifiers are used to match the correct record to the person being treated - no clinical information is linked to the identifier. • Applying for an Individual Healthcare Identifier and being vaccinated for COVID-19 will not impact your visa status or your eligibility for government payments.
<p>Can I get my vaccine without a form of identification?</p>	<p>Mandatory reporting of COVID-19 vaccinations to the Australian Immunisation Register is a legal requirement.</p> <p>Proof of identification is required so that your vaccination provider can record your vaccination (including every dose) in the Australian Immunisation Register.</p> <p>When you receive your vaccination, your vaccination provider will enter your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name • date of birth • contact details • gender • Medicare number or individual healthcare identifier, if you have one <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 1800.653.809.</p> <p>Proof of identity may also be required so your vaccination provider can confirm your eligibility for vaccination for certain reasons (e.g. age). If you're attending your usual doctor's clinic for vaccination, your clinic's records may be used as evidence. If you are eligible but do not have proof of your eligibility, you can complete an eligibility declaration form.</p>
<p>Who is eligible for the Moderna vaccine?</p>	<p>Everyone aged 12-59 years old can now get the Moderna vaccine.</p>
<p>What evidence is there to show the effectiveness of the Moderna vaccine in young people?</p>	<p>Very large clinical trials have shown that the Moderna vaccine is effective in preventing COVID-19 in people aged 12 years and older. Adults who had two doses of the Moderna vaccine were about 94 per cent less likely to become ill from COVID-19 than people who did not get the vaccine. The vaccine was also effective in people aged over 65 years (86 per cent) and in adolescents aged 12-17 years.</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>
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<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. Do not wait to receive a reminder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 six weeks after your first dose. • For Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, you should get your second dose six weeks after your first dose. <p>If you get your COVID-19 vaccine at a doctor's clinic, pharmacy or community health service ask them to book you in for your second dose on the same day you get your first does.</p> <p>You can book your second appointment at a vaccination centre by booking online or calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.</p>
<p>I live in regional Victoria and there are no vaccination centres near me – how can I get my COVID-19 vaccine?</p>	<p>If you are currently eligible you can get your COVID-19 vaccine at a doctor's clinic, pharmacy or community health service. Some pharmacies will also soon start to deliver COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p>Find a service near you.</p> <p>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 https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres</p>
<p>How can people who speak a language other than English book their vaccine appointment?</p>	<p>People who need an interpreter to book their COVID-19 vaccine can call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 and select 0.</p>
<p>How can people who don't have access to a device or the internet book their appointment?</p>	<p>You can book your appointment by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. The hotline will help you find a vaccination centre near you and make your booking for you.</p> <p>You can also get your COVID-19 vaccine by booking an appointment directly with a doctor, pharmacy, or community health service that is offering COVID-19 vaccines.</p> <p>Friends and family members are encouraged to help their loved ones book their COVID-19 vaccine appointment.</p>
<p>I made a booking with the hotline – can I change it online?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>If you want to change the location where you'll receive your COVID-19 vaccine, you should call the hotline on 1800 675 398.</p>
<p>I made my first appointment with the hotline. Can I make my second appointment online?</p>	<p>You can book your second appointment online by visiting www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment.</p> <p>You should register an account using the same email address you gave the Coronavirus Hotline when you booked your original appointment.</p>

When can I book an appointment for a 12- to 17 year old?	Young people can book any available vaccine appointment. To book an appointment visit www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment . Bookings are made available as soon as supply permits.
How can I book an appointment for the Moderna vaccine?	You can book an appointment for Moderna at a pharmacy. To book an appointment at a pharmacy through the Vaccine Clinic Finder .

Vaccination centres

When can I get vaccinated?	For the most up to date information, view the who can get vaccinated page .
How do I make an appointment at a vaccination centre?	You can book an appointment at a vaccination centre by using the online booking system or calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. If you need an interpreter, press 0.
How do I make an appointment at a doctor's clinic, pharmacy, or community health service?	You can find a participating doctor, pharmacy or community health service through the Australian Government Eligibility Checker . You can book your appointment online or by calling the vaccine provider nearest to you.
Where are the drive-through vaccination centres?	There are four drive-through vaccination centres located in Melbourne. Check the vaccination centres page to find the drive through closest to you .
What are the opening hours for the drive-through centres?	Check the vaccination centres page before you attend a site to get up to date information on current opening hours and wait times.
How do I get vaccinated at a drive-through centre?	You can only receive a COVID-19 vaccine at a drive-through centre if you are currently eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You must make a booking online or by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. Each person in the car needs to have a booking. Do not attend a vaccine appointment if you feel any symptoms that may be connected to COVID-19. Learn about where to get tested for COVID-19. Check the vaccination centres page before you attend the site to get more information on opening hours and wait times. Wear a mask and follow all staff directions when you go to the site. <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 who can get a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>Staff at the centre will tell you when to move your car.</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.
I have a medical condition (e.g. serious allergic reaction, past reaction to a vaccine, syncope post-vaccination). Can I go to a drive-through centre for my vaccination?	You should speak to your doctor 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 drive-through vaccination centre.

Vaccination Centre vehicle-related queries

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

Receiving a vaccine (first and second dose)

How many injections do I need?	If you get the Pfizer vaccine, you should have two injections at least six weeks apart. If you get the AstraZeneca vaccine, you should have two injections at least six weeks apart. If you get the Moderna vaccine, you should have two injections at least six weeks apart.
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<p>Where can I get vaccinated?</p>	<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 doctor's clinics, community health services, and pharmacies.</p> <p>Call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 to find out if you are eligible to get the vaccine and book an appointment at a vaccination centre. Press 0 if you need an interpreter.</p> <p>Learn more about vaccination centre locations and opening hours.</p>
<p>What if I don't receive my second dose within the suggested timeframe?</p>	<p>Even if the second dose is late, you will not require any repeat doses. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about the timing of your second dose.</p>
<p>I received my first dose of the vaccine overseas. Can I get my second dose in Australia?</p>	<p>People returning to Australia from overseas who received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine available in Australia (for example, Pfizer, Moderna 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 approved for emergency use 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, Moderna or AstraZeneca)</p> <p>People returning to Australia who received a first and/or second dose of a vaccine not approved 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>
<p>Are the vaccines interchangeable?</p>	<p>The COVID-19 vaccine brands 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"> • 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. • 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) • People who have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine overseas • Pregnancy

<p>Why has the advice on timing between Pfizer doses changed?</p>	<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>
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Access to reserved appointments

<p>Who can access reserved appointments?</p>	<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"> • All health care workers • Public and private residential aged care and disability care workers and residents • Hotel quarantine and border workers • Household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers • Household contacts of healthcare workers on COVID-19 wards, screening wards and healthcare workers who are likely to interact with COVID-19 patients • Meat and seafood processing worker and associated cold chain transportation • Pregnant women who are at 24 weeks or more into their pregnancy, or have complicated or high-risk pregnancies (as determined by their health care provider) • People who are vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19, including residents of high risk accommodation, specified medical condition or people with a significant disability.
<p>Which vaccine will I receive at a reserved appointment?</p>	<p>The following people will receive Pfizer regardless of their age:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All health care workers • Pregnant women who are at 24 weeks or more into their pregnancy, or have complicated or high-risk pregnancies as determined by your health care provider • Public and private residential aged care and disability care workers and residents • Hotel quarantine and border workers • Household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers • Household contacts of healthcare workers on COVID-19 wards, screening wards and healthcare workers who are likely to interact with COVID-19 patients • Household contacts of Ambulance Victoria officers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat and seafood processing worker and associated cold chain transportation • Residential care workers • Family violence workers (DFFH-funded) • Family and parenting services staff • Sexual assault services (CASA) • Child protection staff • Housing staff • Correction staff and residents • COVID response authorised officers involved in household engagement programs, hotel quarantine and ports of entry. • Victorian Building Authority Authorised Officers • Other care services workforces who undertake frontline activities. • People who are vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19, including residents of high risk accommodation, specified medical condition or people with a significant disability. <p>People who have already had a first dose will be offered a second dose of the same vaccine brand as their first dose.</p>
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>Three vaccines are being used in Australia: the Pfizer vaccine, the Moderna vaccine and the AstraZeneca vaccine. These vaccines protect you against COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most people 60 years and older will receive the AstraZeneca vaccine. View an AstraZeneca factsheet in your language. • People aged 12-59 years will be offered the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine as the preferred vaccine. View a Pfizer factsheet in your language and the Moderna factsheet in your language. • If you are between the ages of 18-39 you can choose to get your AstraZeneca with informed consent. View an AstraZeneca factsheet in your language.
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	The Pfizer vaccine and Moderna vaccine are offered to all pregnant people. The Pfizer vaccine is offered to people who are eligible for reserved Pfizer appointments .
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"> the increasing risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 in older adults (and hence a higher benefit from vaccination) and; the increased risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following AstraZeneca vaccine in those under 60 years. <p>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.</p>

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?	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

Side effects

Will I get side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine?	<p>Like all vaccinations, COVID-19 vaccines can have side effects. Expected side effects are generally mild and last a day or two on average.</p> <p>You will be watched by a health professional for 15 minutes after your vaccination to make sure you are okay.</p>
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	<p>If you are feeling unwell after getting your COVID-19 vaccine, you should seek immediate medical care.</p>
<p>What symptoms should I watch out for after I have received the AstraZeneca vaccine?</p>	<p>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).</p> <p>After your AstraZeneca vaccine, go to the doctor straight away if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a headache that started anytime after vaccination and has lasted beyond 48 hours post vaccination. It might also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ be mild (light) or strong (hurt a lot). ○ feel worse when you lie down. ○ go away for a little while when you take pain relief like paracetamol, ○ but then come back. • Vomit (throw up or you feel like you want to throw up). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you have this symptom remember to stay hydrated. • Have blurry vision. • Have weakness in your arms, legs or face. • Find it hard to speak. • Feel sleepy or confused. • Have seizures. • Have pain in your abdomen (tummy) that won't go away. • Find it hard to take deep breaths, or your chest hurts. • Find your legs are sore, red or swollen. <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 www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/thrombosis-thrombocytopenia-syndrome-tts</p>
<p>I've had the Pfizer vaccine – what are the symptoms of serious side effects I should watch for?</p>	<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"> • You feel pain or pressure in your chest. • It hurts when you breathe. • You find it hard to take deep breaths. • You have an irregular heartbeat, skipped beats or 'fluttering' feelings in your chest. • You faint. <p>If you experience these symptoms, seek medical attention immediately. Tell the doctor you have recently had a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.</p>

	When diagnosed early, there are effective treatments available and many people recover without long term impacts.
What are the side effects after receiving the Moderna vaccine?	<p>Normal and very common reactions to all vaccinations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pain, redness and/or swelling at site of injection • tiredness • muscle aches • headache • fever and chills <p>joint pain.</p>
Who should not get the Moderna vaccine?	<p>You should not receive this vaccine if you have had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anaphylaxis (a type of severe allergic reaction) to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine i.e. Moderna or Pfizer • anaphylaxis after exposure to any component of the vaccine, including polyethylene glycol (PEG) • myocarditis and/or pericarditis attributed to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (i.e. Moderna or Pfizer) <p>any other serious adverse event, that an experienced immunisation provider or medical specialist attributed to a previous dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (i.e. Moderna or Pfizer) and without another cause identified.</p>
When should I seek medical attention after vaccination with Moderna?	<p>You should seek medical attention if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you think you are having an allergic reaction. Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing. • You have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ chest pain, pressure or discomfort ○ irregular heartbeat ○ skipped beats or 'fluttering' ○ fainting <p>shortness of breath or pain when breathing.</p>

Supply

Is there enough supply of COVID-19 vaccines to meet the needs of all Victorians?	<p>There will be enough COVID-19 vaccines to vaccinate everyone aged 12 years and over with two doses.</p> <p>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

<p>How do I access my COVID-19 vaccine certificate?</p>	<p>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 my.gov.au, or by calling Medicare on 1800 653 809.</p>
<p>I've had a COVID-19 vaccine do I need to wear a face mask?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Learn more about when to wear face masks.</p>
<p>I've had a COVID-19 vaccine – do I need follow public health restrictions?</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash your hands with soap and water often or use hand sanitiser when you can't wash your hands • Keep 1.5 metres distance from other people • Wear a face mask when required • Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow • Follow current public health restrictions. • Get tested for COVID-19 and stay home until you receive a negative result if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ feel even a little unwell ○ have been to an exposure site ○ have been in close contact with someone who might have COVID-19

Communities

Information for multicultural communities

<p>Will there be interpreters at the vaccination centres?</p>	<p>You can ask an interpreter to be at your appointment by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 and pressing 0. Ask the interpreter to help you make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at a Victorian Government vaccination centre.</p> <p>Everyone who gets a COVID-19 vaccine must be able to understand what they are told at their vaccination appointment and give their consent.</p> <p>View the Australian Government's translated information about COVID-19 vaccines.</p>
<p>Where can I find resources in other languages?</p>	<p>View vaccine information from the Australian Government in your language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View other translated resources from the Victorian Government.
<p>I do not speak English, but my child does. How can I give consent for their vaccination?</p>	<p>One parent or guardian can attend a vaccination appointment with their child and provide consent verbally.</p> <p>A parent can provide consent by signing a consent form. These are available in more than 60 languages.</p>

	<p>People aged 12 - 17 may provide their own consent, if deemed appropriate by a senior and experienced immuniser.</p> <p>You can ask an interpreter to be at your child's appointment by calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 and pressing 0. Ask the interpreter to help you make a COVID-19 vaccine appointment at a Victorian Government vaccination centre.</p> <p>View the Australian Government's translated information about COVID-19 vaccines. View vaccine information from the Australian Government in your language. View other translated resources from the Victorian Government.</p>
<p>What strategies are being used to improve health literacy, train community leaders and to connect with small multicultural communities with limited English proficiency?</p>	<p>Engaging with communities of all sizes is vital to the success of the vaccination program.</p> <p>The Victorian Department of Health has already run many vaccine confidence sessions for multicultural communities to ensure multicultural communities have the 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: https://vcoss.org.au/advocacy/goodthings/</p> <p>North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network have also released videos featuring community leaders: https://nwmphn.org.au/for-community/campaigns/get-vaccinated-against-covid-19/</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>

International students

<p>I'm an international student living in Australia. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine?</p>	<p>Everyone aged 12 years or older can now get a COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone living in Australia.</p> <p>You do not need an Individual Healthcare Identifier or a Medicare card to get a COVID-19 vaccine at a vaccination centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you do not have a Medicare card, you can apply for an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI). • Individual Healthcare Identifiers are used to match the correct record to the person being treated - no clinical information is linked to the identifier.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying for an Individual Healthcare Identifier and being vaccinated for COVID-19 will not impact your visa status or your eligibility for government payments.
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LGBTIQ+ communities

Is it safe for transgender and gender diverse people who are receiving hormone replacement therapy to get a COVID-19 vaccine?	<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.</p>
Is it safe for people who are taking prep or anti-retrovirals to get a COVID-19 vaccine?	<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.</p>

Children and young people

Is the vaccine safe for children?	<p>The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been approved for children aged over 12 years old.</p> <p>Everyone aged 12 years or older can now get a vaccine.</p>
Can parents/guardians of a child attend the child's vaccine appointment?	<p>For COVIDSafe reasons, only one parent or guardian can attend a vaccination appointment with a child.</p> <p>A parent can provide consent verbally at the appointment or by signing a consent form.</p> <p>People aged 12 - 17 may provide their own consent, if deemed to be mature minors by a senior and experienced immuniser.</p>
Which COVID-19 vaccine will young people receive?	<p>The Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have been approved for young people aged 12-18 years.</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 and Moderna vaccines 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 COVID-19 vaccines for young people.</p> <p>The TGA also monitors evidence of vaccine use in other countries where the vaccines are being provided to young people.</p>

	You can read more about the approval process vaccines go through before they can be used in Australia by visiting the TGA website .
When will children under the age of 12 be able to get a COVID-19 vaccine?	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.

Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility

General information

Where can I get more information about COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility?	The Australian Government has information for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy . You can also access information on Pregnancy, breastfeeding, and COVID-19 vaccines in more than 60 languages.
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Pregnancy

Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant?	Yes, you are able to get a COVID-19 vaccination at any stage of pregnancy. People who are 24 weeks pregnancy or who have complicated or high-risk pregnancies are able to access reserved Pfizer appointments at vaccination centres. To book a reserved Pfizer vaccine appointment, call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398. If you are pregnant, talk to your doctor before you get a COVID-19 vaccine.
Why are people who are late in their pregnancy or who have a high-risk pregnancy encouraged to get vaccinated?	People who are at least 24 weeks pregnant and people who have complicated or high-risk pregnancy are encouraged to get a COVID-19 vaccine. People who are pregnant are at higher risk of complications if they get COVID-19 including increased possibility of premature birth. To help you get a COVID-19 vaccine you can access reserved Pfizer appointments at vaccination centres. To book a reserved Pfizer vaccine appointment, call the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.
I received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, then found out I was pregnant. What do I do?	Pregnant people who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine can receive a second dose of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer. Pregnant people should speak with their health care provider about the best choice for them.
What research supports pregnant people getting the COVID-19 vaccine?	The Australian Government has updated its advice for people who are pregnant in relation to COVID-19 vaccines: Pregnant people can have the Pfizer vaccine or the Moderna vaccine at any stage of pregnancy.

	<p>This recommendation is based on expert advice from both the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG).</p> <p>Read the joint ATAGI and RANZOG statement about vaccination for pregnant women</p>
How safe is the COVID-19 vaccine for my unborn baby?	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.

Breastfeeding and fertility

Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine if I am breastfeeding?	Yes, if you are breastfeeding you can have the Pfizer, Moderna 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.

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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