



# COVID-19 vaccine winter dose – factsheet

A winter dose of COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for select cohorts. The winter dose can safely be given at the same appointment as a flu vaccination.

## Information about the winter dose

- COVID-19 vaccine winter doses are available to eligible people **four months** after receiving their third dose, or from four months after a confirmed COVID-19 infection if infection has occurred since the person's third dose.
- A winter dose can be given on the same day, or appointment as a flu vaccination. This is called **co-administration**. It is a safe and effective way to ensure maximum available protection against both COVID-19 and flu.

## Who is eligible?

Groups now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine winter dose are:

- adults aged 65 years and older
- residents of aged care or disability care facilities
- people aged 16 years and older who are severely immunocompromised (as defined in the [ATAGI statement](#) on the use of a 3rd primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 50 years and older.

## Preferred winter dose vaccines

**Pfizer** and **Moderna** are the preferred vaccines for the winter dose. AstraZeneca can be used when an mRNA vaccine (such as Pfizer or Moderna) is contraindicated, or if a person declines an mRNA vaccine. Novavax can be used if no other vaccine is considered suitable for that person.

## When and where are winter doses available?

- Winter doses will be available at all state-run [vaccination centres](#) from Monday 28 March.
- Winter doses will be available from GPs, pharmacies and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisations from Friday 1 April.

## Where to get a winter dose

You can get a winter dose from a Victorian vaccination centre, your local GP or pharmacist – find one near you using the [Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

Read more on how to [book your vaccine appointment](#) for a winter dose, including information on walk-in options. You can also make an appointment by calling 1800 675 398.

For a list of Victorian vaccination centres and pop-up clinics, see the [Vaccination centres page on the Victorian Government's Coronavirus website](#).

## After your winter dose

You might have side effects. Side effects are normal, usually mild, and go after a day or two. You might not have any side effects at all, but if you do, they include:

- pain where you had the needle
- tiredness
- muscle aches
- fever or chills
- joint pain.

Serious side effects are very rare. Contact your doctor if you are worried, or if any side effects have not gone away after a few days. Call 000 if you have a serious reaction such as trouble breathing, chest pain, a fast heartbeat, a seizure (fit) or if you collapse.

## Stay COVIDSafe, even after your winter dose

Even after a winter dose, you still need to be COVIDSafe.

To stay COVIDSafe:

- wash your hands with soap and water often, or use hand sanitiser when you cannot wash your hands
- keep 1.5 metres distance from other people (physically distance)
- wear a face mask inside or when you cannot physically distance
- cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

Get tested for COVID-19 if you:

- feel even a little unwell
- have been to an exposure site
- have been in close contact with someone who might have COVID-19.

Then, stay home until you receive a negative result. Do not go to a vaccine appointment if you feel unwell or think you may have COVID-19.

## More information

You can find more information on the [Victorian Government's Coronavirus website](#).

## Translated resources

The Australian Government has a factsheet translated into various languages, which answers common questions about the winter dose. You can find the factsheet on the [Australian Government Health website](#).

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](mailto:COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

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