



Australian Government

**COVID-19**  
✓ **VACCINATION**

# COVID-19 vaccine



## What is the COVID-19 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 the COVID-19 vaccine?

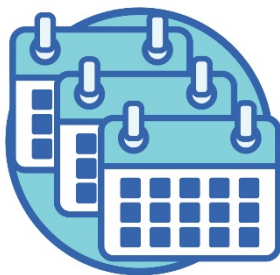


A **vaccine** is a type of medicine that:

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



The COVID-19 vaccine teaches your body how to fight COVID-19.



Vaccines can take a long time to make.



Vaccines must be tested many times to make sure they are safe.

## Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?



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 only approves vaccines that:

- are safe
- work well.

After they approve a vaccine, the TGA:



- keeps a list of the vaccines they approve



- keeps track of the way the vaccine is working in the community.



This includes how:

- well the vaccine works
- safe the vaccine is.

The TGA has already approved 2 COVID-19 vaccines in Australia.



They are called the:

- AstraZeneca vaccine
- Pfizer vaccine – it is also known as the Comirnaty vaccine.



We wrote Easy Read documents that explain each type of vaccine in detail.



You can find them on the Department of Health website at [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au).



The TGA might also approve more COVID-19 vaccines later this year.

## Things to know about the vaccines



The AstraZeneca and Pfizer vaccines do not have any COVID-19 in them.



This means these vaccines can't give you COVID-19.



Some people might still get COVID-19 after their vaccination.



This means everyone still needs to help stop the spread of COVID-19.



The COVID-19 vaccines do not have any tiny technology in them, such as:

- software
- microchips.



Having a COVID-19 vaccine does not mean you will be tracked.

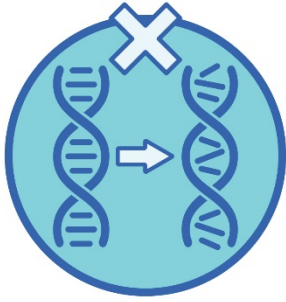


The COVID-19 vaccine will not make you **infertile**.



If you are infertile, you can't:

- make a baby
- get pregnant.



The COVID-19 vaccines will not change your DNA.



Your DNA is special information about you that is in every cell in your body.



## 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](http://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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