



Australian Government

**COVID-19**  
✓ **VACCINATION**

# COVID-19 vaccine



## The Pfizer 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?



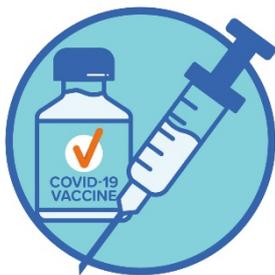
A **vaccine** is medicine that:

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

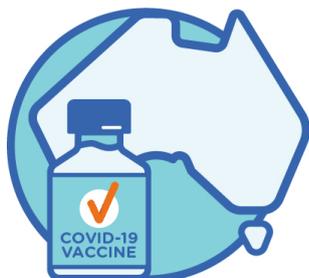


The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect:

- 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 Pfizer vaccine.



The Pfizer vaccine is a COVID-19 vaccine.  
It is also known as the Comirnaty vaccine.



The TGA said only people aged 16 years or older should receive the Pfizer vaccine.

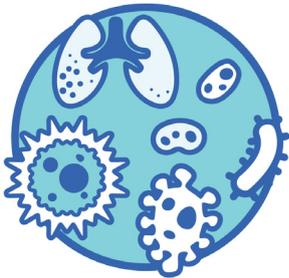


The Pfizer vaccine doesn't have any COVID-19 in it.



You can't get the virus from the vaccine.

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



You need to get 2 doses of the same vaccine.



Even if you get the Pfizer vaccine, there is a chance you still might catch COVID-19 from other people.

## Is the Pfizer vaccine safe?



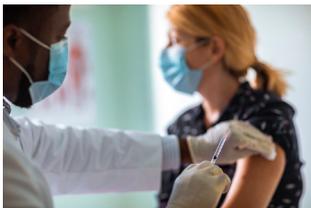
Researchers have run a large **clinical trial** of the Pfizer vaccine.

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.



44,000 people took part in the Pfizer vaccine clinical trial.

The clinical trial included people:



- aged 65 years or older

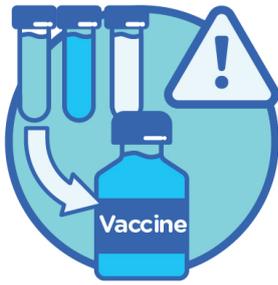


- with other health problems.

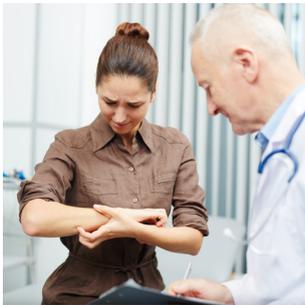


The clinical trial showed that people who get 2 doses of the Pfizer vaccine are much less likely to get sick from COVID-19.

## Who should not have the Pfizer vaccination?



You should not have the Pfizer 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



- your tongue gets bigger



- you find it hard to breathe



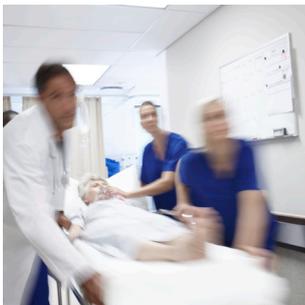
- your heart beats faster.



**Anaphylaxis** is a strong allergic reaction.



If you need an EpiPen, you have had a strong allergic reaction before.



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 Pfizer vaccination.



You should tell your doctor if you have ever had an allergic reaction to any vaccine in the past.

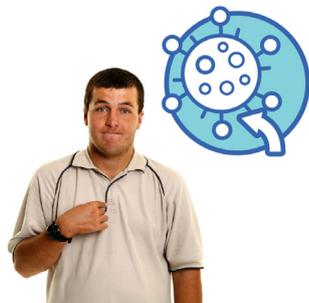


You should not have a second dose of the Pfizer vaccine if you have a strong allergic reaction to the first dose.

You should talk to your doctor first if you:



- are pregnant or breastfeeding



- have had COVID-19 before.

You should talk to your doctor if you have:



- any allergies
- anaphylaxis.

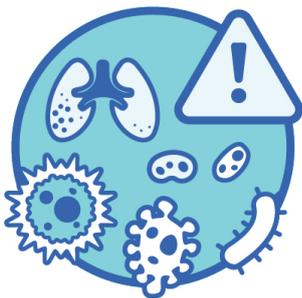


You should talk to your doctor if you are taking any kind of medicine that thins your blood.



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

If you are immunocompromised, it is harder for your body to fight:



- infections



- other diseases.



You might need to have the Pfizer 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



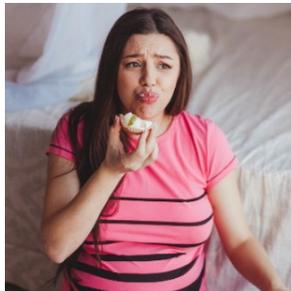
- cough



- 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 Pfizer 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 Pfizer 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](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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