

# Preparing for COVID-19 vaccination

Last updated - 24 June 2021

Here are things you should think about before you book your vaccination and before you go to your appointment.

## Make sure your details are correct

Make sure your details are up to date with Medicare. You can do this online with your:

- Medicare account through myGov,
- through the Express Plus Medicare app.
- by calling Medicare on 13 20 11.

If you do not have your account set up, you can:

- Enrol in Medicare, if you are not already enrolled.
- Set up your Medicare online account, if you are enrolled in Medicare, but do not have Medicare linked to myGov.
- Get an Individual Health Identifier (IHI), if you are not eligible for Medicare.

Once you have had your vaccine, you will be able to get an immunisation history statement to prove your vaccination status. You can find out how to get your immunisation history statement on the Services Australia website at [www.servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au)

## Getting ready for your appointment

People who have the highest risk of severe COVID-19 and/or exposure to the virus will receive the vaccine first, and other people over time. Find out more at [www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines)

You should **not** attend a COVID-19 vaccination appointment if you:

- Are unwell with fever, cough, runny nose or other symptoms that could be from COVID-19.
- Are awaiting COVID-19 test results.
- Have tested positive with COVID-19 and are isolating.
- Are in quarantine.
- Are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Check the list of exposure sites to find out if you should be tested and/or isolate:

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/exposure-sites)

If any of these things apply to you, you may need to reschedule your vaccination appointment.

Tell your immunisation provider if you have received another vaccine 14 days before your COVID-19 vaccine appointment. You may need to reschedule your appointment.

If you have no fever or respiratory symptoms you are not required to test for COVID-19 before vaccination.



Australian Government  
Department of Health



## Plan ahead for two doses

You need to receive two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. If you receive AstraZeneca, doses will be 12 weeks apart. If you receive Pfizer, the the doses will be about 3-6 weeks apart. Your best protection against COVID-19 will not occur until about 7 - 14 days after your second dose.

## What to expect at your vaccination appointment

You should bring the following to your COVID-19 vaccination appointment:

- Photo ID, if you have one.
- Medicare card, if you have one.
- Employee ID, if you are getting a COVID-19 vaccine because of your occupation.
- Information about any of your medical conditions, allergies, bleeding disorders or your immune status (i.e. weakened immune system).
- Information about any medications you are taking.
- Information about any previous COVID-19 vaccine received (vaccine brand and date of vaccination).
- Information about any reactions you have had to any vaccine in the past.
- Name of your current GP/s and any specialist doctors you see.
- A face mask.

You can discuss any questions you have about COVID-19 vaccination with your immunisation provider at your appointment.

Tell your immunisation provider about any medical conditions or medications. Especially tell them if you:

- Have had anaphylaxis (a type of severe allergic reaction) to any substance, or if you have an adrenaline autoinjector (e.g. EpiPen).
- Have had a reaction to any vaccine in the past.
- Have a bleeding disorder or are receiving anticoagulant therapy (a blood thinner).
- Are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy.
- Have a weakened immune system or take immune suppressing medication.
- Have received another COVID-19 vaccine (and which brand).
- Have received any vaccine in the last 14 days.

It might be a good idea to have a discussion with your healthcare provider about vaccination before making an appointment.

## How you will receive the vaccine

You will receive the vaccine as an injection, most commonly into your upper arm muscle. You must remain in the vaccination clinic for observation for 15 to 30 minutes after vaccination, depending on your medical history.

## How the information you provide at your appointment is used

For information on how your personal details are collected, stored and used visit:

<https://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines>



Contact your doctor or healthcare professional if you have further questions  
Visit [www.starhealth.org.au](http://www.starhealth.org.au) for more information and for referrals to StarHealth clinics  
Tel: StarHealth 03 9525 1300  
Tel: Australian Government COVID-19 Help line 1800 020 080



Australian Government  
Department of Health

