

## **Information about COVID-19 vaccine - AstraZeneca**

### **Getting the AstraZeneca vaccine**

- The AstraZeneca vaccine protects you against getting COVID-19. With two doses spaced by 12 weeks you are 80 per cent less likely to get COVID-19 and more than 90 per cent less likely to be hospitalised with COVID-19 than if you do not receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) has approved AstraZeneca for use in Australia because it is safe and effective. The TGA continues to monitor the rollout of AstraZeneca in Australia and overseas.
- COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed based on supply. Most people in Australia, including most health care workers, will receive AstraZeneca vaccine.

### **Information about the AstraZeneca vaccine**

- AstraZeneca has been approved by the TGA for use in Australia for people aged 18 years and older.
- You will need two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to have full protection. The doses should be administered 12 weeks apart to provide the greatest protection against COVID-19.
- Currently the AstraZeneca doses being delivered were produced in Europe. From late March they will be made in Melbourne Victoria.
- Receiving a COVID-19 vaccine is your choice. The vaccine is free and will be available to all eligible people in Australia.

### **What protection does the AstraZeneca vaccine offer from COVID-19?**

- AstraZeneca will protect you from getting ill from COVID-19. Once you have had two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine spaced by 12 weeks, you are 80 per cent less likely to get COVID-19 than if you do not receive a COVID-19 vaccine. A re-analysis of clinical trials showed a higher level of protection provided when doses of AstraZeneca were spaced 12 weeks apart.
- AstraZeneca will protect you from becoming very ill from COVID-19. Large studies from the United Kingdom show that people who were vaccinated with AstraZeneca were 90 per cent less likely to be hospitalised with COVID-19 compared with people who were not vaccinated.
- Protection against COVID-19 starts from about 3 weeks after the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. The second dose boosts antibody levels and is required to prolong the duration of protection.
- Is the AstraZeneca vaccine safe?

The AstraZeneca vaccine has been approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This means it meets Australia's very high standards for safety, quality and

effectiveness.

The TGA regularly releases information on COVID-19 vaccines that are being used in Australia. The latest TGA statements on AstraZeneca are provided below:

- [Reports of anaphylaxis](#)
- [Update on European countries who have paused AstraZeneca vaccines](#)
- [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\) has also released a statement on AstraZeneca](#)

### **Can I choose which vaccine I receive?**

COVID-19 vaccines are being distributed based on availability of doses. You don't get to choose which vaccine you receive. Both AstraZeneca and Pfizer are very safe and effective vaccines. Both protect you against getting COVID-19 and against getting very sick if you do get COVID-19.

If you are offered AstraZeneca and choose to not receive that vaccine you will not be offered Pfizer vaccine.

It is your choice to get vaccinated. It is not mandatory. However, if you choose not to be vaccinated, you will not be protected against COVID-19, including serious illness caused by COVID-19.

### **Further information**

You can find more information about the Australian Government vaccine program by visiting the [Australian Government Department of Health website](#).

You can use the [eligibility checker](#) to find out when you can receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Depending on your eligibility you can either find a vaccine provider and book an appointment or register to receive an email or SMS when you are able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- [Information on COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine](#)
- [After your AstraZeneca vaccine](#)
- You can find out more about the vaccines the Australian Government has secured including the number of doses of each vaccine by visiting the [Australian Government Department of Health website](#).

You can find information about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in Victorian by visiting [coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine).