

# Patient Information



## What to expect after your AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccination

Today you have received the AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine. Vaccination is your best protection against COVID-19.

**Thank you for protecting yourself and our community.**

### Do I need two doses of the AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine?

It is important that you receive two doses of COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria), about 12 weeks apart. Shortening the interval from 12 weeks to no less than 4 weeks between doses may be appropriate in certain circumstances. The second dose will provide you with better protection against COVID-19.

### Can COVID-19 vaccines give me COVID-19?

COVID-19 vaccines do not contain the live virus that causes COVID-19. This means they cannot give you COVID-19. You may get side effects, which is a sign that the body is building protection against the COVID-19 virus.

### Where can I get more information?

For trusted advice about COVID-19 vaccines and the vaccination program:

- Visit the Australian Government Department of Health or Queensland Health websites
- Talk to your GP
- Contact the 24 hour National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080

# What side effects might I experience?

As with any vaccine, you may have some side effects after receiving the AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine.

## Common

Pain, swelling, tenderness, redness or itching at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, nausea, fever and chills, feeling unwell, joint pain.

## Less common

Enlarged lymph nodes, limb pain, dizziness, decreased appetite, stomach pain.

These side effects are usually mild and occur in around two-thirds of people who are vaccinated, and usually go away within one or two days.

Some people will have more significant flu-like symptoms and may require time away from normal activities. These symptoms are more common after the first dose compared with the second dose.

If you have pain at the injection site, fever, headaches or body aches in the first 1–2 days after vaccination, you can take an over-the-counter pain medication. If there is swelling at the injection site, a cold compress may help.

## You should seek medical attention after vaccination if:

- You are worried about a potential side effect or a new or unexpected symptoms.
- You have an expected side effect of the vaccine that has not gone away after a few days.

Information provided is based on the Australian Government Department of Health advice and may be subject to change. For vaccine information visit: [www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](http://www.health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines)

## Rare side effects

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).
- Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS - a very rare and unusual blood clotting condition).

## You should seek urgent medical attention if:

- You think you are having a severe allergic reaction. **Dial 000 if you experience symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.**
- You have any of the following symptoms of TTS, particularly around 4 to 42 days after vaccination:
  - o headache that persists beyond 48 hours after vaccination or appears later than 48 hours after vaccination. Simple painkillers alleviate headache initially, but it persists
  - o blurred vision
  - o weakness of face or limbs
  - o confusion or seizure
  - o shortness of breath
  - o chest pain
  - o persistent abdominal pain
  - o swelling in your leg
  - o pin-prick rash or bruising not at the injection site that cannot be explained.

Be sure to tell your doctor that you've recently received the vaccination.

For symptoms that aren't urgent, you can see your regular healthcare provider — usually your GP.

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## Stop the spread of COVID-19

It is important that we continue to wear our masks when required, wash or sanitise our hands often, cover our coughs and sneezes with an arm or tissue, keep practicing physical distancing and if unwell, stay home and get tested for COVID-19.

Visit [www.gcphn.org.au/community/covid-19](http://www.gcphn.org.au/community/covid-19) for more information.