



## What to expect after your Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccination

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

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

### Do I need two doses of the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine?

It is important that you receive two doses of Pfizer (Comirnaty), at least three weeks apart. The second dose is likely to prolong the duration of 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 Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine.

## Common

- pain or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle pain
- fever and chills
- joint pain

## Less common

- redness at the injection site
- nausea
- enlarged lymph nodes
- feeling unwell
- pain in limb
- insomnia
- itching at the injection site

These side effects are usually mild 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 may occur after either dose, but are more common after the second dose.

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

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)

## You should seek medical attention after vaccination if:

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

## Rare side effects

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- Myocarditis and pericarditis\*

## 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 chest pain, pressure or discomfort, irregular heartbeat, skipped beats or 'fluttering', fainting, shortness of breath or pain with breathing.

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.

\* Myocarditis and pericarditis is the inflammation of the muscles and linings of the heart. Most reported cases have been mild, self-limiting and recovered quickly, although longer-term follow-up of these cases is ongoing. Cases have been reported predominantly after the second dose and predominantly in younger males, aged under 30 years.

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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.