

# COVID-19 & Vaccines

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28<sup>th</sup> August 2021



Department  
of Health

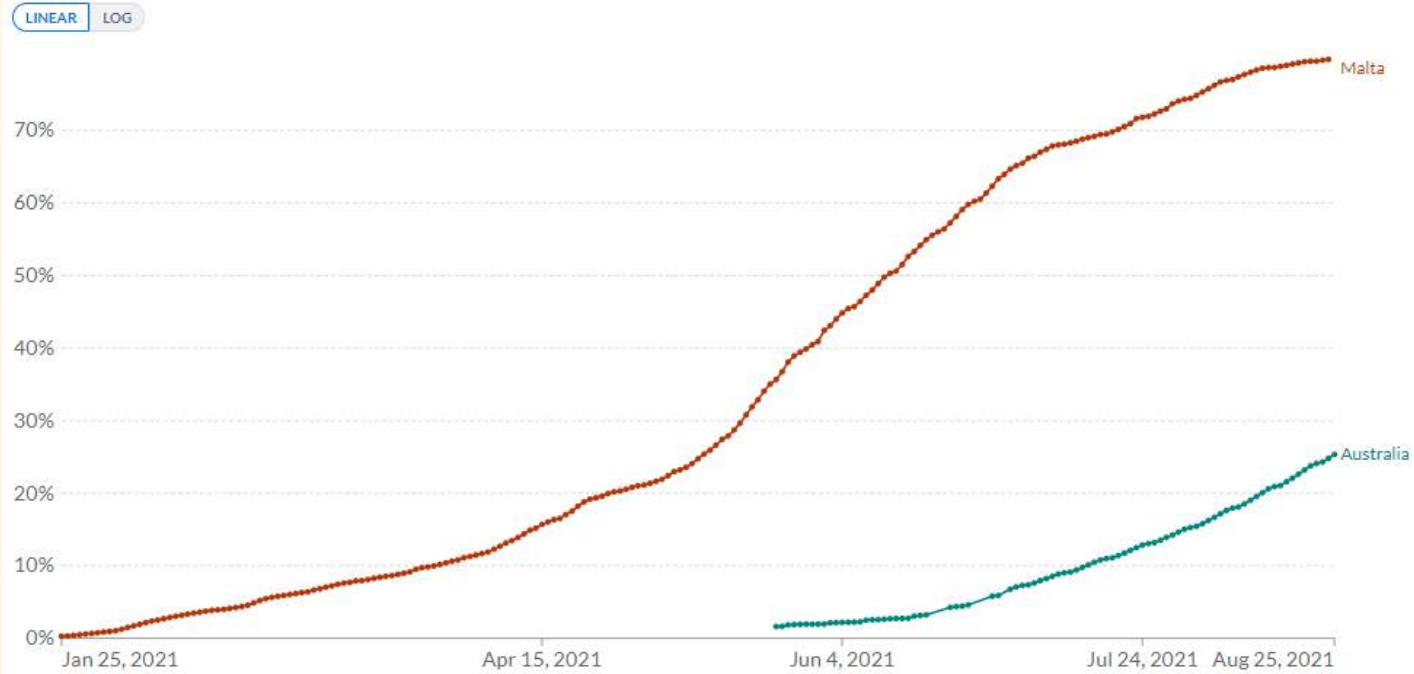
# What has changed in the last 18 months?

- The name (COVID-19 is the disease, SARS-CoV-2 is the virus)!
- Understanding how the virus works and who is most at risk of infection (older adults with existing medical problems)
- How the virus spread and how to prevent it (airborne - social distancing, masks etc)
- Treatments – none cure disease, some improve condition (steroids)
- Vaccines! An *additional tool* to public health measures

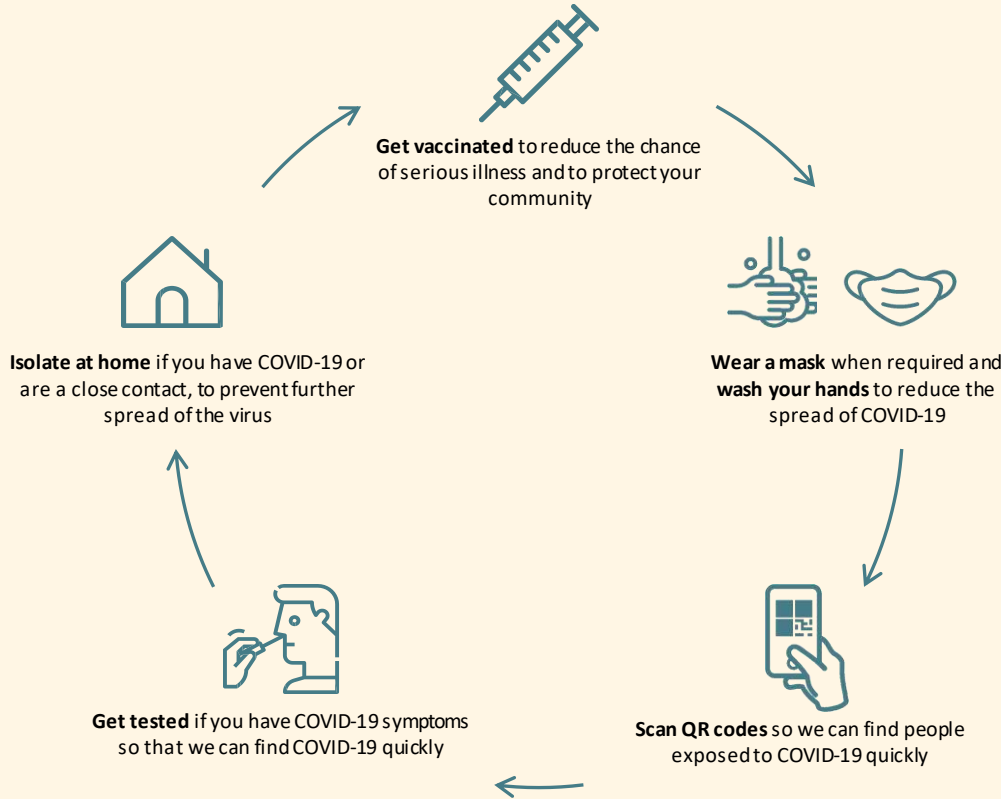
# Share of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19

Total number of people who received all doses prescribed by the vaccination protocol, divided by the total population of the country.

Our World  
in Data



# COVIDSafe community messaging



COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing are free for everyone. You do not need insurance, or a visa, or Medicare card to get it.

### VICTORIAN COVID-19 UPDATE: 28 AUGUST 2021

In the past 24 hours to midnight, there have been

<b>New cases</b>		<b>55,333</b> Test results received
Acquired locally	64	
Acquired overseas	0	
Acquired interstate	0	
<b>Active cases</b>	<b>701</b>	Got symptoms? Get tested.
<b>Lives lost</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Every test helps</b>

#### COVID-19 Vaccine

<b>35,753</b> Doses administered	<b>2,324,198</b> Total administered
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1800 675 398  
coronavirus.vic.gov.au

EVEN IF YOU ARE FULLY VACCINATED!

At the **first sign** of any of these symptoms, **get tested** then **stay home**



Fever



Runny nose



Sore throat



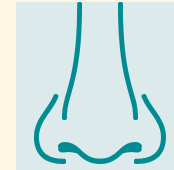
Cough



Chills



Shortness of  
breath



Loss of sense of  
smell or taste

- **Everyone** aged **16 years and over** is **eligible**
- Young people aged 12 -15 years are eligible if they:
  - have an [underlying medical condition](#).
  - are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

ATAGI recommends that the following groups of children among those aged 12–15 years be prioritised for vaccination using the Comirnaty (Pfizer) vaccine:

- children with specified medical conditions that increase their risk of severe COVID-19 (including severe asthma, diabetes, obesity, cardiac and circulatory congenital anomalies, neuro developmental disorders, epilepsy, immuno-compromised and trisomy 21)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 12–15 years
- all children aged 12–15 years in remote communities, as part of broader community outreach vaccination programs that provide vaccines for all ages ( $\geq 12$  years).

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-regarding-vaccination-of-adolescents-aged-12-15-years>

From 9<sup>th</sup> August 2021, the above groups will be eligible to receive vaccination at all vaccination centres and GP clinics.

## Under 60 years

### Pfizer vaccine preferred

People aged under 60 years who have had the first dose AstraZeneca vaccine can receive second dose.

People aged 18 to 59 years who choose to receive AstraZeneca following individual risk-benefit consideration and informed consent discussion.

## 60 years and over

### Eligible to receive AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine

Eligible for second dose of Pfizer vaccine if already received first dose.

Determined by Victorian Specialist Immunisation Service should an individuals' doctor recommend AZ not used.

Only referrals by a clinician are accepted and processed (no self-referrals).



## AstraZeneca

- The AstraZeneca vaccine will be offered to adults 60 years and older
- Some state vaccination centres can provide the AstraZeneca vaccine to adults aged under 60 years for whom Pfizer is not available and the benefits are likely to outweigh the risks
- It is important to make an informed decision and discuss the individual benefit-to-risk with a trusted doctor
- More information: [weighing up the potential benefits against risk of harm from COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca](#)

## Pfizer

- Pfizer vaccine will be offered to people under 60 years of age
- The Pfizer vaccine will also be offered to all:
  - Healthcare workers
  - Quarantine and border workers
  - Household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers
  - Residential aged care workers and residential disability care workers and residents 16 or over

To book an appointment at a state vaccination clinic:

Call 1800 675 398 (option 0)

To make an appointment at other participating clinics:

Use the Government's COVID-19 [eligibility checker](#)

- In line with ATAGI's recommendations, any person aged 60 years and over will be offered the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as the preferred vaccine at state vaccination centres.
- The benefits of vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine strongly outweigh the risks of adverse effect, including TTS, in those 60 years or older.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-on-revised-recommendations-on-the-use-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-17-june-2021>

## Novavax

- Provisional determination granted in Australia (not yet approved for use but under review by TGA)
- Type of vaccine – Protein based
- Requires two doses
- If approved, 51 million doses are anticipated in the second half of 2021.
  - enough doses to cover Australia's population.

## Moderna

- Approved for use by TGA
- Type of vaccine – mRNA
- Requires two doses four weeks apart
- Moderna will supply 25 million doses from late 2021.
  - 10 million doses of their current vaccine, and
  - 15 million doses of booster or variant-specific versions of the vaccine.

## AstraZeneca

- People who have had their first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca without any serious adverse effects are encouraged to have their second dose as planned
- This includes adults under 60 years of age
- ATAGI advise that each person needs to make an informed decision, based on an understanding of the risks and benefits
- In an outbreak, ATAGI recommends a gap of 4 to 8 weeks between first and second doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Where outbreaks are not a threat, people should continue getting second doses 4 to **12 weeks** after the first dose

## Pfizer

- The minimum interval for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has changed to **six weeks** between first dose and second dose at [Victorian state-run vaccination clinics](#).

Over 50 vaccination centres across Melbourne and regional Victoria

For bookings visit:

[portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/](https://portal.cvms.vic.gov.au/) or call 1800 675 398

Participating GPs, GP respiratory clinics, ACCHOs and Pharmacies.

For bookings visit:

[www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility-checker)



To help people who are at **higher risk of contracting** or **getting very sick** from COVID-19 get vaccinated, appointments are being reserved at vaccination centres.

To book a reserved appointment call the **Coronavirus Hotline** on **1800 675 398**

If someone is unable to get vaccinated via their usual support networks, **Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs)** can assist them to make suitable arrangements.

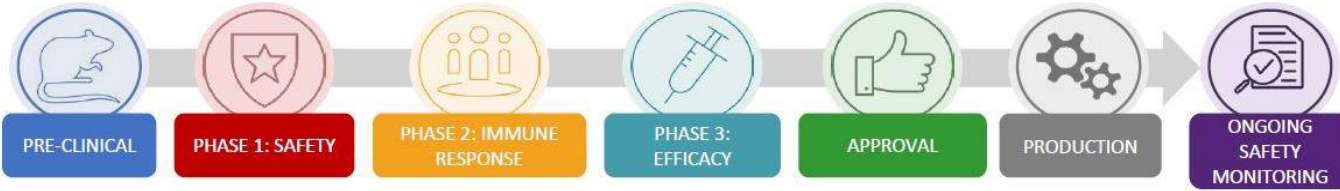
To contact a DLO you can complete an easy online [form](#).

Further information: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/who-can-get-vaccinated#reserved-pfizer-vaccine-appointments>

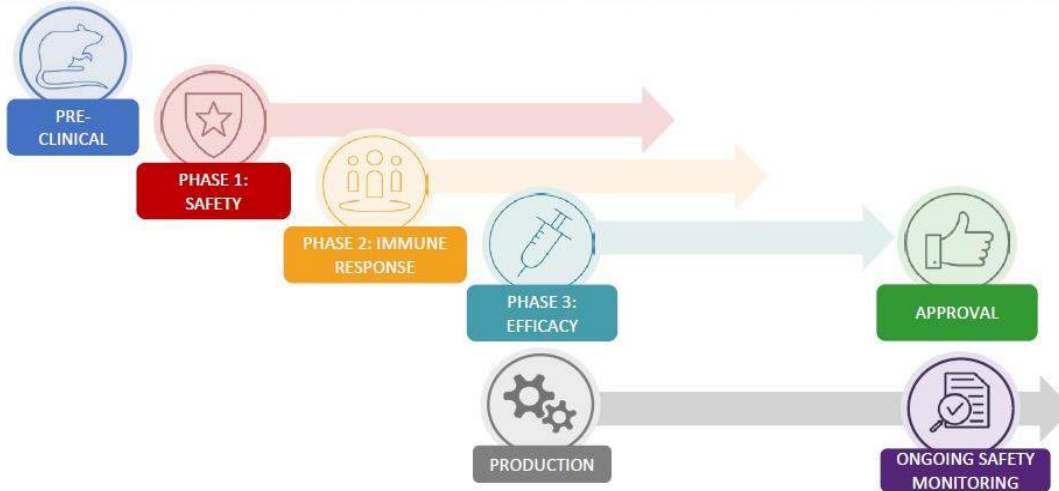
- All health care workers
- Public and private residential aged care and disability care workers and residents
- Hotel quarantine and border workers
- Household contacts of hotel quarantine and border workers
- Meat and seafood processing worker and associated cold chain transportation
- People who are vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19, including residents of high risk accommodation

# Vaccine development

TRADITIONAL PROCESS  
(10-15 YEARS)



PANDEMIC PROCESS  
(OVERLAPPING PHASES, 12-18 MONTHS)



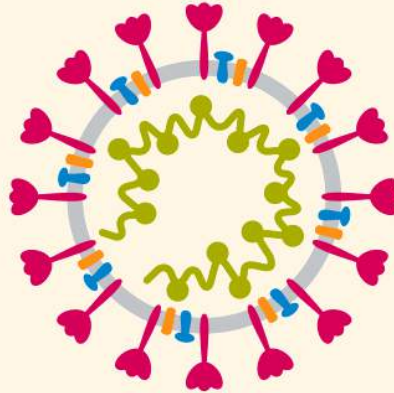
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# COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Vaccine Design Strategies

## SARS-CoV-2



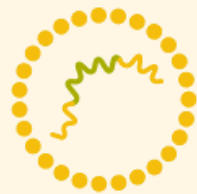
Non-replicating  
viral vector



Viral Vector  
Vaccines

AstraZeneca

mRNA vaccine

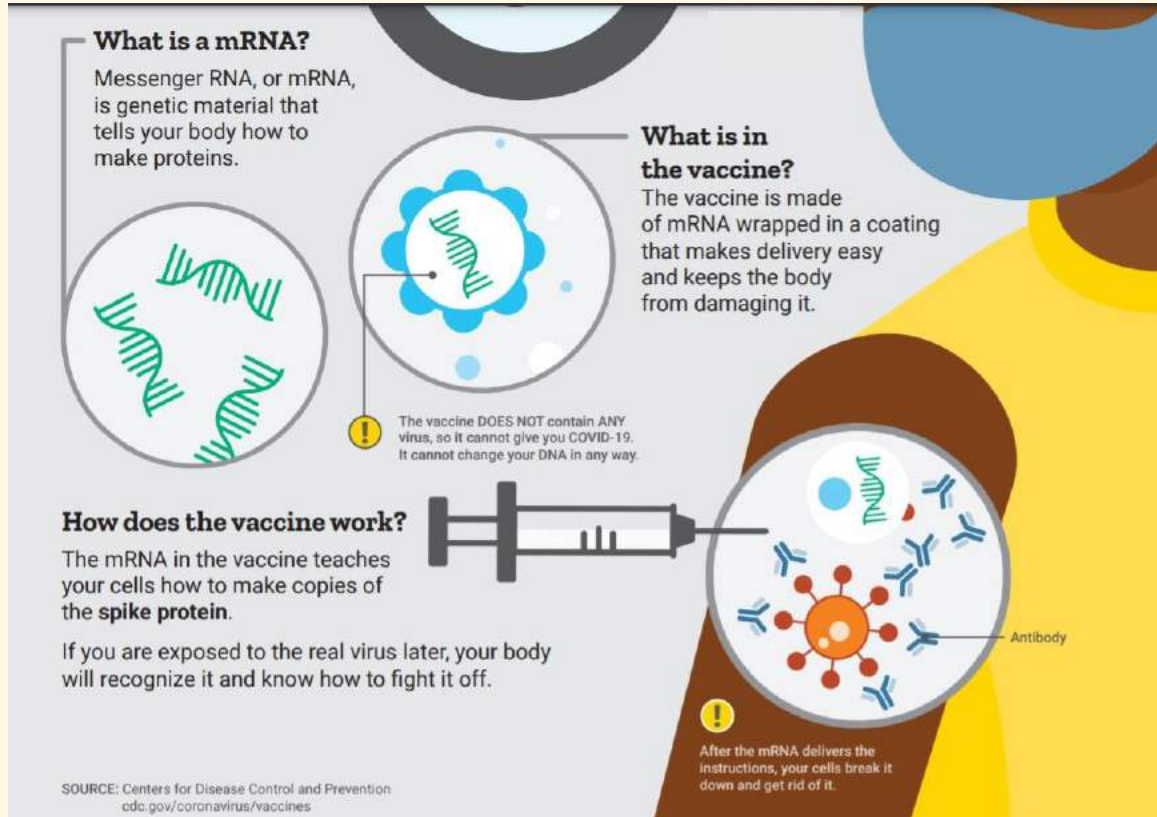


Nucleic-Acid Based  
Vaccines

Pfizer / BioNTech

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# How does the Pfizer vaccine work?



# How does the AstraZeneca vaccine work?



## What is a viral vector vaccine?

A viral vector vaccine uses a harmless version of a different virus, called a "vector," to deliver information to the body that helps protect you.

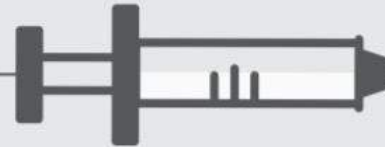


The vaccine DOES NOT contain the virus that causes COVID-19 and cannot give you COVID-19. It also cannot make you sick from the virus that is used as the vector. It cannot change your DNA in any way.

## How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine teaches your body how to make copies of the spike proteins.

If you are exposed to the real virus later, your body will recognize it and know how to fight it off.



The **Delta variant** has been found to have an increased transmissibility and secondary attack rate.

- There is an **increased risk** of **hospitalisation** associated with the variant.
- The risk of reinfection is increased due to a reduction of neutralising activity reported.
- Both the **AstraZeneca and Pfizer** vaccines **protect** against severe disease and hospitalisation, particularly after receiving both doses of vaccines.

There is a **very rare risk** of serious **side effects** that impact your heart – these conditions are called myocarditis or pericarditis and can occur after receiving a **Pfizer COVID-19** vaccine.

**Myocarditis** is the inflammation of the heart muscle, and **pericarditis** is the inflammation of the thin sac that surrounds the heart.

Most people who have experienced these heart conditions following vaccination with Pfizer have required hospitalisation however they have **responded well to standard treatment**. Patients have recovered quickly with treatment.

After your Pfizer vaccine you need to **watch** for the following **symptoms** in the days (typically **1-5 days**) following your vaccine:

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

If you experience these symptoms you should **immediately seek medical attention**. You need to tell the doctor you see that you have recently had a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

When **diagnosed early** there are **effective treatments** available and many **people recover** without long term impacts.

Planning pregnancy: **No evidence of increased risk of pregnancy complications** in women who become pregnant after vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines have no effect on fertility.

Breastfeeding: It is **safe to continue breastfeeding** before or after COVID-19 vaccination. No evidence of any side effects or any harm to the woman or her infant.

Currently pregnant: Royal Australian New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and ATAGI recommend that **pregnant women are routinely offered Pfizer vaccine at any stage of pregnancy**. There are no safety concerns for the woman or her baby and helps protect against the risk of COVID-19 infection to protect both the woman and her baby.

# What are the risks of COVID-19 in pregnancy?

Pregnant women with COVID-19 have a higher risk of certain complications compared to nonpregnant women with COVID-19 of the same age, including:

- An increased risk (about 5 times higher) of needing admission to hospital.
- An increased risk (about 2-3 times higher) of needing admission to an intensive care unit.
- An increased risk (about 3 times higher) of needing invasive ventilation (breathing life support).

COVID-19 during pregnancy also increases the risk of complications for the newborn, including:

- A slightly increased risk (about 1.5 times higher) of being born prematurely (before 37 weeks of pregnancy).
- An increased risk (about 3 times higher) of needing admission to a hospital newborn care unit.



- Pregnant women should be routinely offered Pfizer [at any stage of pregnancy](#).
- Women who are [trying to become pregnant](#) do not need to delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination.
- [Real-world evidence](#) has shown that Pfizer is safe for pregnant women and breastfeeding women.
- Women who received their [first dose of AstraZeneca](#) vaccine and are pregnant can receive a second dose of either AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccine, although Pfizer vaccine is preferred.
- COVID-19 vaccination may provide [indirect protection to babies](#) by transferring antibodies through the placenta (for pregnant women) or through breastmilk (for breastfeeding women).

COVID-19 vaccines are **Halal** (Australian Fatwa Council)

COVID-19 vaccination **supported** by a huge **range of faiths** and **religious leaders globally**

COVID-19 vaccines **do not contain** any **human or animal tissue or cells**  
derived from human or animal tissue



Pope urges people to receive Covid-19 vaccine



Watch later



Share



MORE VIDEOS

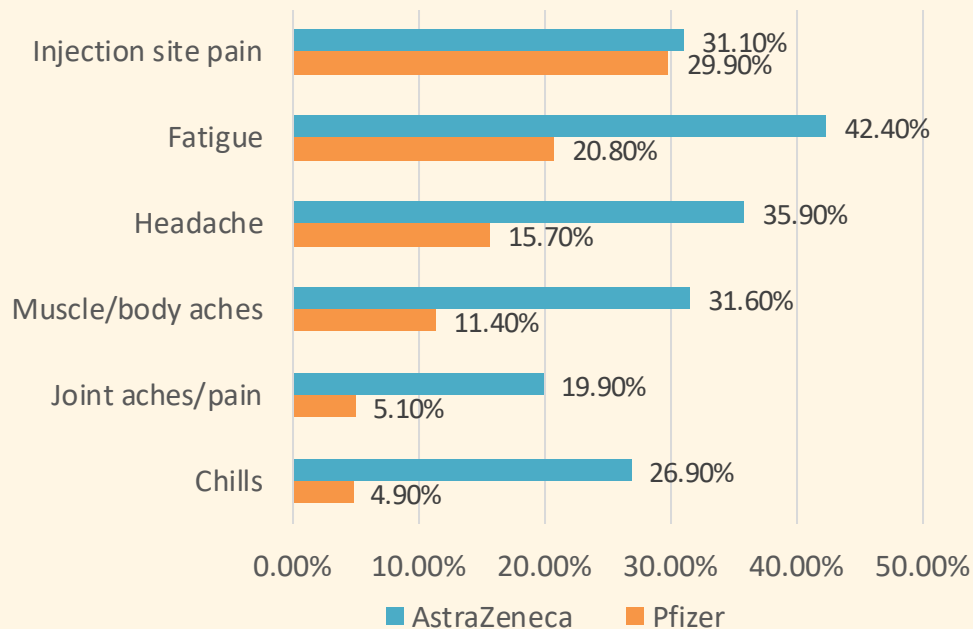
Getting the vaccines that are authorized by the respective authorities is an act of love. And helping the majority of people to do so,

is an act of love. Love for oneself, love for our families and friends,




Getting vaccinated is a simple yet profound way to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

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# COVID-19 vaccine side effects – first dose



AusVaxSafety COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance as at 16 August 2021

-  **54.3%** of participants reported no adverse event
-  **45.7%** of participants reported any adverse event
-  **0.9%** of participants reported visiting a doctor or emergency department

Source: National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, 'COVID-19 Vaccines | Ausvaxsafety' (Ausvaxsafety.org.au, 2021) <<https://www.ausvaxsafety.org.au/safety-data/covid-19-vaccines>> accessed 24 August 2021.

Resources developed by the [Victorian Department of Health](#):

- [Translated resources](#)
- [Subscribe](#) to receive COVID-19 Vaccine Project Updates
- During the vaccine rollout it is critical we all continue to be [COVIDSafe](#). Find out [where to get tested](#).

Resources developed by the [Australian Government Department of Health](#):

- [Easy-read resources](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine information in your language](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccine campaign resources](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, or planning pregnancy](#)
- [ATAGI statement on revised recommendations on the use of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca](#) (17 June 2021)
- [ATAGI statement regarding vaccination of adolescents aged 12–15 years](#) (2 August 2021)
- [COVID-19 vaccination – Guidance on Myocarditis and Pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccines](#) (30 July 2021)
- [Multilingual consumer factsheet about AstraZeneca vaccine](#) / [Multilingual consumer factsheet about Pfizer vaccine](#)

Accurate and evidence-based answers to common questions

- <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/is-it-true>
- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publication/covid-19-vaccines-common-questions-other-languages>

Other resources:

- National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance - [COVID-19 vaccines: Frequently asked questions](#)
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) - [COVID-19 vaccine: Information for consumers and health professionals](#)
- Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy - [www.allergy.org.au/patients/ascia-covid-19-vaccination-faq](http://www.allergy.org.au/patients/ascia-covid-19-vaccination-faq)
- Melbourne Vaccine Education Centre - [mvec.mcri.edu.au/references/covid-19-vaccines-frequently-asked-questions/](http://mvec.mcri.edu.au/references/covid-19-vaccines-frequently-asked-questions/)
- [Services Australia - How to get an Individual Health Identifier](#)

# Take away messages about vaccine safety

Nearly 4 billion doses of COVID-19 vaccines already given

Vaccine safety is constantly being monitored

Safety issues are rare

Talk to your GP or trusted health professional if you have personal questions

Information about pandemic conditions may continue to change

Media headlines may be misleading

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# Thank you

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

[COVIDvaccination@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVIDvaccination@health.vic.gov.au)



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