

What to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination

The AstraZeneca vaccine is suitable for people aged 18 years and older.

You will need two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine 12 weeks apart.

While one dose will give some protection, it may only last for the short-term. It will take some time for your body to build an immune response. You will have maximum protection against COVID-19 after a second dose. We will continue to learn over time about how long the protection will last.

After receiving any vaccine, you may experience minor side effects. Most side effects are mild and last no more than a few days. However, if you do experience any side effects following vaccination and are worried, contact your GP.

Side effects of AstraZeneca vaccine

Common side effects after AstraZeneca include:

- tenderness, pain, warmth or itching, where the injection is given
- generally feeling unwell
- tiredness
- headache
- chills or feeling feverish
- joint pain or muscle pain
- feeling sick (nausea)

Less common side effects after AstraZeneca include:

- enlarged lymph nodes
- pain in limb
- dizziness
- decreased appetite
- stomach pain

These side effects are usually mild and usually go away within one or two days. If you experience pain at the injection site or fever, headaches or body aches after vaccination, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen. These help reduce the above symptoms (you do not need to take paracetamol or ibuprofen before vaccination). If there is swelling at the injection site, you can use a cold compress.

Rare side effects that have been reported after AstraZeneca are:

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)

After you have left the vaccination location, seek medical attention if:

- You think you are having an allergic reaction. Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.
- 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.
- For symptoms which are not urgent, you can see your regular healthcare provider (usually your GP).

You can use the **COVID-19 vaccine side effects symptom checker** if you have concerns about any symptoms after your vaccine;
<https://covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/check-side-effects>

The checker is also available through the National Coronavirus Helpline, 1800 020 080, 24 hours a day.

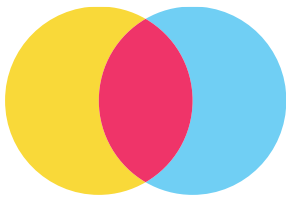
Vaccine safety monitoring and reporting side effects

You can ask your doctor for specific advice about side effects. Please call us if you would like to book an appointment.

If you think a COVID-19 vaccine has caused a side effect, you can report it. Reports of suspected side effects help the TGA monitor COVID-19 vaccine safety. AccessHC can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) on your behalf, or you can report your side effects yourself. Visit the [TGA website](#) to find out how.

Stay informed at:

www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/



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