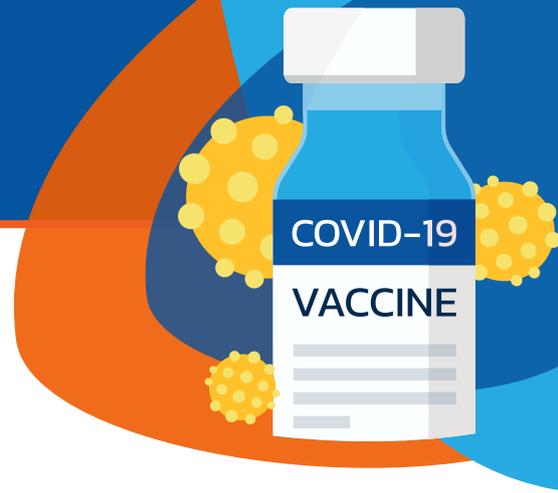# Vaccination Information

COVID-19 vaccination

Having a COVID-19 vaccine is an important step to take to reduce the serious effects of COVID-19 in people who become infected with the virus. Current evidence shows that people who have received a COVID-19 vaccine have a much lower chance of developing more serious disease from COVID-19. This is compared to those who did not get the vaccine.

Even though the COVID-19 vaccine has been shown to be very effective there is still a chance you may get COVID-19. No vaccine is 100 per cent effective.

It is important to understand that the COVID-19 vaccines will not infect you with the COVID-19 virus, because the vaccines do not contain live COVID-19 virus.

Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service will have the AstraZeneca vaccine available, which has been provisionally approved by the TGA.

How is the COVID-19 vaccine given?

The vaccine is given via an injection into your upper arm by a health professional who has been trained in giving the COVID-19 vaccine.

You must remain in the vaccination clinic for observation for at least 15 minutes after vaccination. Depending on your medical history, you may be asked to wait in the clinic for 30 minutes.

x2

To get the full benefit of the vaccine you will need two injections, several weeks apart.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

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

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Who should not get the vaccine?

You must not get a COVID-19 vaccine if you have had any of the following:

- Anaphylaxis (a severe allergic reaction) to a previous dose of the same COVID-19 vaccine

- Anaphylaxis after exposure to any ingredient of the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have recently had any other vaccine (e.g. flu vaccine) you should wait at least 14 days to have the COVID-19 vaccine. Make sure you book your appointments with enough time between them.

Stay informed at
www.health.gov.au and **www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine**

Queensland Government

What to expect after your AstraZeneca vaccination

All medicines and vaccines can cause side effects and most of these are minor effects. However, if you do experience any side effects following vaccination and are worried, contact your local health centre.

All vaccines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are mild to moderate in nature and resolve within a few days. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your healthcare provider if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

- Tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching or swelling where the injection is given
- Generally feeling unwell
- Feeling tired (fatigue)
- Chills, fever or feeling feverish
- Headache
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Muscle pain/ache, joint pain

What to do

Speak to your healthcare provider if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.

Medicines containing paracetamol can be taken if you need relief from side effects such as pain and/or fever.

Serious side effects

All injectable vaccines have the potential for an allergic reaction after you are injected.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- fainting, dizziness, feeling lightheaded (due to a drop in blood pressure)

What to do

Tell your healthcare provider straight away, or go straight to your nearest hospital or clinic if you notice any of these serious side effects.

Vaccine safety monitoring and reporting side effects

Suspected side effects can be reported to your vaccination provider or other healthcare professional. They will then make a formal report on your behalf to your state or territory health department or directly to the TGA.

COVID-19 testing after vaccination

Some side effects from COVID-19 vaccination might be similar to symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever). The AstraZeneca vaccine does not contain any live virus and cannot cause COVID-19. You do not need to get a COVID-19 test or isolate if you develop general symptoms like fever, headache or tiredness in the first two days after vaccination or if you are sure that you don't have any respiratory symptoms (e.g. runny nose, cough, sore throat, loss of smell or loss of taste).

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for pregnant and breastfeeding women?

At this stage, COVID-19 vaccines are not routinely recommended to be given during pregnancy as there is limited experience with the use of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnant women. As we learn more about the vaccines, this advice may change.

If you are breastfeeding you can receive a COVID-19 vaccine at any time. You do not need to stop breastfeeding before or after vaccination.

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor, pharmacist or immunisation provider for advice before you consider receiving this vaccine.

Remember your second appointment

It is important that you receive two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine several weeks apart. The TCHHS Public Health Team will return to your community to deliver your second dose.

Where can I get more information or ask questions?

Stay informed at www.health.gov.au and www.qld.gov.au/covid19vaccine

Proof of vaccination

After you have been fully vaccinated, you can get a copy of your Immunisation History Statement from the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR). You can access this information through the myGov website using your Medicare online account or by calling the AIR on 1800 653 809.

Privacy Notice

Personal information collected by Queensland Health and the Hospital and Health Services (collectively 'Queensland Health') is handled in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

Queensland Health is collecting your personal information including your name, address, phone number, email address, age, gender, Indigenous status, vaccine details and Medicare number in accordance with *Australian Immunisation Register Act 2015* in order to manage recall, reminders, clinical follow up; or control and enhanced safety monitoring of vaccines. This information will be given to the Australian Immunisation Register for the purpose of maintaining information about vaccinations of individuals.

Your personal information will also be used to administer the Queensland Health COVID-19 immunisation program ('Program'). Your relevant medical information including existence of any medical conditions, allergies, or severe reactions following any vaccine will be collected for the assessment of whether and which vaccine you should be administered.

If you choose not to provide the information it may affect Queensland Health's ability to respond and deliver services to you, including administering the COVID-19 vaccine to you.

All personal information will be securely stored and only accessible by appropriately authorised officers within the Queensland Health.

Your de-identified data (information that will not identify you) will be shared with Commonwealth Government and national immunisation safety, monitoring and surveillance organisations for the purpose of monitoring adverse events following immunisation and evaluating disease prevention and control (immunisation) efforts.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to other third parties without consent, unless the disclosure is authorised or required by or under law.

For information about how Queensland Health protects your personal information, or to learn about your right to access your own personal information, please see our website at https://www.health.qld.gov.au/global/privacy and https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/access-info/privacy-contacts