



Australian Government

Department of Health

COVID-19  
VACCINATION

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# Facts about COVID-19 vaccines

We are regularly hearing new things about COVID-19 vaccines. It is normal to have questions or worries about whether you or your mob should get vaccinated. You may have heard some information in your community and don't know what is true, and what is false.

Below is **accurate**, **factual**, and **evidence-based information** about COVID-19 vaccination.

## FACT #1

**COVID-19 vaccines help protect you from getting really sick.**



**COVID-19 is a real pandemic in Australia.** Many areas in Australia have recently been locked down because of COVID-19 infections. Unfortunately, there are people who have ended up in hospital and some even died. Some of these people were young and healthy before being infected with the COVID-19 virus.

COVID-19 could have a devastating effect on people living in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. All it takes is someone infected coming to your community and the virus will spread. Sometimes people may not even know they are sick, yet they are carrying the virus and unknowingly pass it on to the community.

Please think about getting the COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself, your family, Elders and others in your mob.

In Australia all vaccines, including the COVID-19 vaccines are assessed for quality, safety and effectiveness by the **Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)**. The TGA are the scientists and medical experts who regulate and approve all vaccines and medicines.

The vaccines work by training your body to recognise and fight the COVID-19 virus. You might still get COVID-19 if you have had the vaccine, but you are less likely to get really sick or to die if you are vaccinated. You can't get COVID-19 from having the vaccines and they won't change your genes or DNA.

## FACT #2

### **COVID-19 can affect everyone in Australia, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.**



#### **Tens of thousands of people in Australia have gotten COVID-19.**

Thousands of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been infected with COVID-19 in Australia, and this number is growing.

The COVID-19 virus is very infectious. Even young, fit and healthy people can get COVID-19 and get really sick or

pass it on to their mob. It can be even worse if Elders get sick from COVID-19, as they are especially vulnerable.

COVID-19 vaccines can prevent you from getting really sick and dying from COVID-19. When you get vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and helping to protect your mob from COVID-19.

## FACT #3

### **COVID-19 is much more serious than the flu and you could get really sick or even die**



#### **COVID-19 is not the same as the flu.**

COVID-19 can make you much sicker than the types of flu we now live with. COVID-19 can make you much sicker than the types of flu we now live with. Like the flu virus, COVID-19 can change (mutate), so there are different types of COVID-19. You should continue to get your flu vaccination and get your two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

You can still catch the flu or COVID-19

if you have been vaccinated, but it is not going to make you as sick. This means it could save your life and even stop you from having to go to hospital.

Check with your healthcare worker about getting both the flu and the COVID-19 vaccines – remember, they are two different vaccines. They will give you good advice. And check out [this advice from Dr Karen Nicholls<sup>1</sup>](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/covid-19-vaccination-dr-karen-nicholls-explains-why-you-need-two-doses-of-your-covid-19-vaccine) talking about why you need two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/videos/covid-19-vaccination-dr-karen-nicholls-explains-why-you-need-two-doses-of-your-covid-19-vaccine>

#### FACT #4

**COVID-19 vaccines protect us so that we can stay healthy and get back to being with our community**



**COVID-19 is a serious and dangerous virus and is killing people of all ages.**

We need to control the spread of the virus and how it is making so many people of all ages and cultures sick.

The COVID-19 vaccines will help protect you and your mob from getting really sick, having to go to hospital and even dying. It is in your and your mob's best interests to get vaccinated. Many Indigenous leaders

have had the vaccine – have a look at [these videos](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/covid-19-vaccination-communication-materials-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples#videos)<sup>2</sup> with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders talking about why they have had the COVID-19 vaccine.

Even if you don't travel much, you should consider getting the vaccine to protect yourself in case you catch COVID-19.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/covid-19-vaccination-communication-materials-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples#videos>

#### FACT #5

**The COVID-19 vaccines help protect pregnant women and their unborn babies from getting very sick from the virus**



**Pregnant women can receive the COVID-19 vaccine at any time during pregnancy.** Pregnant women can get very sick if they are infected with COVID-19. There is also a risk to pregnant women that if they get COVID-19, they could give birth to premature or stillborn babies.

Women who are breastfeeding can also get vaccinated at any time. The vaccination does not hurt them or the baby they are feeding. In fact, breast milk can help protect babies from getting COVID-19 if the mother has received a COVID-19 vaccine.

## FACT #6

### Children can also get really sick from COVID-19



**The TGA has approved the Comirnaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna) vaccine for kids aged from 12 to 15 years old.** There is now enough evidence from research trials to show that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are safe and effective for children in this age group.

You can now get your 12 to 15-year-old kids vaccinated.

Parents and aunties and uncles are the best role models, so please think about preparing your kids for their vaccines by having your COVID-19 vaccine.

### Where do I find more information?

Visit the 'Is it true?' page on [health.gov.au](https://www.health.gov.au) to get the most up to date information.