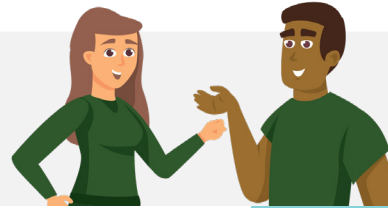




COVID-19 Update:

Vaccination roll-out



10 March 2021



A vaccine to stop you getting sick from COVID-19 is now available.

COVID-19
VACCINATION

From Monday 15 March the COVID-19 vaccine will begin rolling-out to inmates in NSW.

The vaccination will be available to everyone.

Every centre will be offering the first of two doses over the next 12 weeks. We will tell you when the vaccination is coming to your centre.

The vaccine is safe, effective, and free. It will help protect you, your family, and the community.

About the vaccine

The vaccine has been tested many times by experts to make sure it is safe and effective.

The vaccine is given as an injection, using a needle.

You will need two doses of the vaccine to fully protect you from COVID-19, taken about 12-weeks apart. You need to have the same vaccine both times.

You might feel some side effects after your vaccination. This is your body reacting to the medicine. Side effects don't happen to everyone, and most are not serious and go away on their own in a couple of days.

Getting vaccinated

A nurse will ask you if you want to be vaccinated, and questions to make sure it is safe for you to have it.

After your first dose, the nurse will:

- give you information about your vaccination and tell you when your second dose is due
- book an appointment for your next dose.

You need to have the second dose to be fully protected from COVID-19.

If you leave custody before your second dose, tell your doctor or pharmacist in the community when you need your final dose; or call the National Coronavirus Helpline for advice on 1800 020 080 (free call).

Frequently asked questions

What does the COVID-19 vaccine do?

The vaccine teaches your body to find and fight the virus, to stop you getting very sick or dying.

Who should have the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine is recommended for people aged over 18. Some people may not be able to have the vaccine for health reasons.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?

The vaccine has been tested many times by experts to make sure it is safe and effective.



It has also been tested and approved for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA only approves vaccines that:

- are safe
- work well.

A nurse will tell you if you should not have the vaccine for health reasons.

How is the COVID-19 vaccine given?

The vaccine is given as an injection, using a needle. You will need two injections (doses), about 12 weeks apart.

Why do I need two doses of the vaccine?

You need to have the second dose to be fully protected from COVID-19. Having one dose will not give you full protection.

Will the vaccine give me COVID-19?

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

Getting vaccinated

Why should I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine will stop you getting sick from COVID-19. It will help protect you, your family, and the community.

Do I have to get vaccinated?

You can choose if you have the vaccination. The vaccine is strongly recommended to help protect you, your family, and the community.

When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccines will be offered from 15 March 2021.

It will take about 12 weeks to get to all sites. We will tell you when the vaccination is coming to your location.

How can I get the vaccine?

A nurse will ask you if you want to be vaccinated, and make sure it is safe for you to have it.

Who will give me the vaccine?

The vaccination will be given by a nurse or doctor who has done special training in how to give the COVID-19 vaccine.

Can I choose which vaccine I get?

No. Similar to the wider community, You will be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine. All COVID-19 vaccines used in Australia are safe and very effective.

Can I have a different vaccine for my first and second dose?

You need to have the same vaccine both times.

How do I get my second dose?

After your first dose, the nurse will book an appointment for your second dose.

How will I remember what vaccine I had and when my second dose is due?

At your first dose, the nurse will give you information on your vaccination and when your second dose is due (about 12 weeks after the first dose).

Keep your vaccination information to share with the nurse or doctor providing your second dose.

What happens if I miss my second dose or have it later than 12 weeks?

If your second dose is overdue, tell the nurse straight away.

The second dose will be effective even if you have it after 12 weeks, and you won't need to repeat your first dose.

Your second dose is very important because one dose will not give you full protection.

What happens if I return to the community before my second dose?

If you return to the community before your second dose, tell your doctor or pharmacist when you need your second dose; or call the National Coronavirus Helpline for advice on 1800 020 080 (free call).

What happens if I change centres or hospitals before my second dose?

The appointment for your second dose will be transferred to your new location.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine have side effects?

You might feel some side effects after your vaccination. This is your body reacting to the medicine. Side effects don't happen to everyone, and most are not serious and go away on their own in a couple of days.

Common side effects (reactions) include:

- itching, pain, or swelling where the needle went in your arm
- headache
- tiredness
- fever
- sore muscles or joints.

Serious side effects include:

- trouble breathing
- wheezing (sounds you don't usually hear when breathing)
- a very fast heartbeat
- falling down or fainting.

If you have a serious reaction to the medicine, call for help straight away.

