

IMPORTANT STATEMENT – PLEASE READ: *Vaccination is the most effective way to protect against infectious diseases. Vaccines strengthen your immune system by training it to recognise and fight against specific viruses. When you get vaccinated, you are protecting yourself and helping to protect the whole community. Vaccination will reduce the health, social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will help save lives and livelihoods:* [Australian Government, Department of Health](#)

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Vaccines to be available in Australia</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">(NB: People may choose whether to be vaccinated, but will not have a choice of vaccine)</p>			
<p><u>DISCLAIMER</u> <i>This document is a compilation of information from open sources. No warranty for completeness or accuracy is given. Please seek and rely on your own doctor's medical advice.</i></p>	<p>Pfizer (Research name: BNT162b2)</p>	<p>AstraZeneca (Research names: AZD1222, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, or ChAdOx1-S)</p>	<p>Novavax (Research names: NVX-CoV2373, SARS-CoV-2 rS) (Aust approval pending)</p>
<p>Vaccine type</p>	<p>RNA. It does not contain any live virus, cannot alter your genes and cannot give you COVID-19 infection</p>	<p>Viral vector-based vaccine. Uses a harmless modified version of a different virus to induce the body to develop an immune response against SARS-CoV-2. It cannot give you COVID-19 infection.</p>	<p>Synthetic SARS-CoV-2 Spike protein and an immune booster (adjuvant). It cannot give you COVID-19 infection.</p>
<p>Number of jabs needed</p>	<p><u>2 doses taken 21 days apart.</u></p>	<p><u>2 doses taken 28 – 84 or more days apart.</u> A minimum 84 day interval is recommended.</p>	<p><u>2 doses taken 21 days apart</u></p>
<p>Not recommended for:</p>	<p><u>Children under 16 and most pregnant women. However pregnant women at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 (e.g. health workers) or who have comorbidities which add to their risk of severe disease, may be vaccinated in consultation with their health care provider.</u></p> <p><u>People who have severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or after exposure to any component of a COVID-19 vaccine.</u></p>	<p><u>Children under 18 and most pregnant women. However pregnant women at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 (e.g. health workers) or who have comorbidities which add to their risk of severe disease, may be vaccinated in consultation with their health care provider.</u></p> <p><u>People who have severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or after exposure to any component of a COVID-19 vaccine.</u></p> <p><u>People under 50 years of age.</u></p>	<p>Persons younger than 18 years of age</p>

<p>Safety information</p>	<p><u>The vaccine has been found to be safe and effective in people with hypertension, diabetes, asthma, pulmonary, liver or kidney disease, as well as chronic infections that are stable and controlled and various other conditions that are associated with increased risk of severe disease, including immune-compromised persons.</u></p>	<p><u>The European Medicines Agency has thoroughly assessed the data on the quality, safety and efficacy of the vaccine. It has found vaccination to be safe for persons with comorbidities including obesity, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease and diabetes, or are immunocompromised. However, please see further under 'Negative side-effects' below.</u></p>	<p><u>No serious adverse events or adverse events of special interest were reported in Phase 1 trials. After first jab, for vulnerable groups, there were local reactions in 4-16% of participants, and systemic reactions in 4-32% of participants. After second jab local and systemic reactogenicity were absent or mild.</u></p>
<p>Effectiveness against death caused by COVID-19 infection (after both jabs) *</p>	<p>Close to 100%</p>	<p>Close to 100%</p>	<p>Close to 100%</p>
<p>Effectiveness against severe disease caused by COVID-19 infection (after both jabs) *</p>	<p><u>92%</u></p>	<p><u>94%</u></p>	<p><u>89.3%</u></p>
<p>Effectiveness against need for hospitalisation caused by COVID-19 infection (after both jabs) *</p>	<p><u>87%</u></p>	<p><u>94%</u></p>	<p><u>89.3%</u></p>

<p>Effectiveness against mild to moderate symptoms caused by COVID-19 infection (short term or longer term) (after both jabs) *</p>	<p><u>94%</u></p>	<p><u>81.3% when the second dose is given 12 weeks or more after the first.</u></p>	<p><u>89.3%</u></p>
<p>Effectiveness against new variants of COVID-19 (after both jabs) *</p>	<p><u>The vaccine's ability to produce antibodies against the South African variant was reduced by two-thirds, compared with its effect on the most common version of the virus</u></p>	<p><u>74.6% against UK variant. As low as 10% against South African variant.</u></p>	<p><u>95.6% against the original COVID-19 strain; 85.6% against the UK strain; 60% against South African strain</u></p>
<p>Effectiveness against spreading COVID-19 to others *</p>	<p><i>Insufficient data</i></p>	<p><i>Insufficient data</i></p>	<p><u>Some preliminary evidence that it will inhibit virus spread</u></p>
<p>Positive side-effects (indicative of internal production of anti-COVID 19 antibodies)</p>	<p><i>Mild-moderate (i) tiredness, chills and headaches (ii) localised pain at injection site – for up to 3 days after jab</i></p>	<p><i>Mild-moderate (i) tiredness, chills and headaches (ii) localised pain at injection site – for up to 3 days after jab</i></p>	<p><u>Common side effects included headache, fatigue and myalgia.</u></p>

<p>Negative side-effects</p>	<p><u>If you have a history of anaphylaxis</u> (a type of severe allergic reaction) to any substance, or you <u>have an adrenaline autoinjector</u> (e.g. an EpiPen), you will need to stay for 30 minutes of observation after you have your vaccine. In the very rare cases where severe allergic reactions were reported, these reactions usually occurred in the first 30 minutes after vaccination.</p>	<p>On 7 April 2021 the European Medicines Agency concluded that <u>“unusual blood clots with low blood platelets should be listed as very rare side effects of Vaxzevria (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca)”</u>. Consequently, the Australian government has named Pfizer as the preferred vaccine for adults aged under 50 years.</p>	<p><u>Overall reactogenicity was largely absent or mild and the average duration was two days or less for both doses.</u></p>
<p>Viability of vaccine prior to use</p>	<p>Must be stored and transported at extreme refrigerated temps of minus 70 to minus 80 degrees Celsius</p>	<p><i>Can be stored and transported at normal refrigerated temps of 2 degrees to 8 degrees Celsius for at least six months</i></p>	<p><i>Can be stored and transported at normal refrigerated temps of 2 degrees to 8 degrees Celsius</i></p>
<p>Alleged ethical issues</p>	<p>NIL known</p>	<p><u>The production of the vaccine uses a cell line – HEK-293 – consisting of descendants of cells first obtained in the early 1970s, from a foetus which was probably electively aborted (although records have now been lost). However, the actual vaccination does not contain any foetal cells, or pieces of foetal DNA, and “the overwhelming majority of rabbinic authorities see no halakhic objection”.</u></p>	<p><i>NIL known</i></p>

* Vaccines’ efficacy cannot be directly compared because of differing clinical trial designs.

(Note: All links are as accessed on 9 April 2021)