



Australian Government



COVID-19 vaccine information for teens and parents/guardians

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The Corminaty (Pfizer) and Spikevax (Moderna) COVID-19 vaccines are approved and recommended for people aged 12 and older.

There are lots of reasons for young people to get vaccinated, including:

- protecting you from catching COVID-19
- reducing your risk of severe disease, long-term side effects or long COVID
- helping you get back to school, college or university
- reconnecting you with your family and friends
- getting you back to doing the things you love, like team sports, going to concerts, travel.

Vaccination protects you, and it also protects your:

- family
- friends
- schoolmates
- teammates
- workmates

How does the COVID-19 vaccine work?

COVID-19 vaccines can stop people from becoming sick with COVID-19.

Pfizer and Moderna vaccines do not contain any live virus and cannot give you COVID-19. They contain genetic code for an important part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19, called the spike protein.

After getting the vaccine, your body makes copies of the spike protein. Your immune system then learns to recognise and fight against the virus. The genetic code is then broken down quickly by the body.

What to expect after vaccination

The vaccine starts to protect you against COVID-19 from about 2–3 weeks after the first dose.

That is why it is important to continue to be safe and to remember to:

- practise good hygiene
- practise physical distancing
- follow the limits for public gatherings
- understand how to isolate if you need to

What if I have a reaction to the vaccine?

You may experience some side effects after vaccination. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days and you will recover without any problems. Common reactions to vaccination include:

- pain, redness and/or swelling where you received the needle
- mild fever
- headache

If you have any concerns about symptoms you can get more information at healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-side-effect-checker.

Remember your second appointment

It is important that you get two doses of the vaccine as the second dose is likely to prolong the protection against COVID-19. The recommended interval for Pfizer is three weeks but may be longer if you are in an area that is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.

How is the information you provide at your appointment used?

For information on how personal details are collected, stored and used you can visit health.gov.au/using-our-websites/privacy/privacy-notice-for-covid-19-vaccinations.

Consent

Parents may be asked to consent to their child being vaccinated.

In general, a parent or legal guardian of a child has the authority to consent to vaccination. In some states and territories, older adolescents may be able to provide their own consent.

Your child's COVID-19 vaccine will be recorded on their Immunisation History Statement. Note that if your child is aged 14 years and older, you can no longer access their Australian Immunisation Record for privacy reasons. You can get their immunisation history statement if you have their consent. More information is available via Services Australia <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register/how-get-immunisation-history-statement>.

More information about consent is available in the Australian Immunisation Handbook at immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au/vaccination-procedures/preparing-for-vaccination.

Alternatively, you can check with your state or territory health authority about these laws: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-contacts>