COVID-19 VACCINATION

LET'S DO THIS

NSW GOVERNMENT

Know the facts!
COVID-19 vaccines

What is the Delta variant?

The current outbreak in NSW is due to the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus.

The Delta variant is estimated to spread more than twice as easily as the original virus, which puts your family and friends at greater risk if you are infected. The Delta variant can also cause more severe illness:

- The risk of needing hospital care for people infected with the Delta variant is around double that of those infected with the Alpha variant.
- Compared to other variants, people infected with the Delta variant are more likely to be admitted to hospital, including to intensive care.

What COVID-19 vaccines are available?

Three vaccines are currently approved for use in Australia: the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine and the AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria) vaccine are available now. The Moderna (Spikevax) vaccine will be available soon.

Do COVID-19 vaccines actually work?

Yes! Australia can rely on evidence from around the world showing that vaccines are very effective against COVID-19, including the highly contagious Delta variant.

Two doses of a vaccine:

- Reduces the chance you will be infected with COVID-19 by around 60% - 80%.
- Gives you around 90% protection against hospital admission or death from COVID-19 if you are infected.
- Significantly reduces the overall spread of COVID-19 to others.

COVID-19 is very dangerous and spreads quickly. Even if you don't have symptoms or get sick, you can still pass the virus on to others. Vaccination will protect you and help reduce the spread. Getting vaccinated also helps to protect your family, your friends and your community.

Have COVID-19 vaccines been developed too quickly to be safe?

No! COVID-19 vaccines are built on decades of research, with scientists from around the world working together to ensure no scientific testing or approval steps were skipped.

All the vaccines available in Australia have been approved for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA checks vaccines for safety, quality, and effectiveness.

I'm young and healthy, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes! Over half of those with COVID-19 in NSW are under 40. Many young people have been admitted to hospital and even intensive care because of COVID-19. You should get vaccinated to protect yourself, your family and friends.

COVID-19 spreads easily, and the Delta variant spreads more than twice as easily as the original virus. It can also cause more severe illness in those that get it. Vaccination will help protect you and those you love.

Should I get vaccinated even though I could still catch or spread COVID-19?

Yes! COVID-19 can cause severe disease and death at any age but is particularly risky for older people and those with existing health conditions. Two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine gives you around 90% protection against hospital admission and death from COVID-19 if you are infected. It also helps reduce spread to others.

Severe COVID-19 can lead to a person needing care in hospital, and for some, intensive care is needed. If lots of people need hospital care at the same time it could put a lot of pressure on hospitals and the health system. Vaccination helps to limit the number of people with severe disease who need hospital care, helping to keep hospitals open for those who need them for other reasons.

Are there dangerous ingredients in COVID-19 vaccines?

No! The TGA considers the safety, quality and effectiveness of every component in a vaccine before it is registered for use in Australia. Components in the available COVID-19 vaccines are listed on the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. The components vary depending on the type of vaccine but may include:

- a piece of genetic code (mRNA), or
- a very small dose of a weakened virus and a piece of genetic code (DNA), or
- a protein component of the virus
- a substance to boost the immune response (an adjuvant)
- a small amount of preservative
- sterile saltwater (saline) for injections.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines approved in Australia:

- contain egg or animal products
- can affect or interact with your DNA in any way
- contain anything that can track you
- are unsuitable for people based on religious or faith requirements.

Does the risk of a serious side effect mean I shouldn't get vaccinated?

No! All the COVID-19 vaccines approved in Australia have good safety profiles and millions of doses have been given safely, protecting people from COVID-19.

All medicines have possible side effects, but the chance of a severe side effect from a COVID-19 vaccine is extremely low. Compared to the risks of getting COVID-19, the benefits of the vaccines are clear.

The protective benefits of vaccination against COVID-19 far outweigh the potential risks. It is recommended that people 12 years and over get any COVID-19 vaccine available to them as soon as possible. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are approved for those aged 12-17 years old, and all three vaccines are available for people aged 18+.

Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine if I am pregnant, breastfeeding, or trying to get pregnant?

Yes! You can get vaccinated if you're pregnant, breastfeeding or trying for a baby. There is no scientific evidence to suggest COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility. If you are pregnant, you should get vaccinated now.

Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19. Vaccination reduces the risk of severe disease and helps to keeps you and your unborn baby protected. The vaccine cannot give you or your baby COVID-19.

Will I need to get a 'booster' shot?

Maybe. Studies are underway to better understand how long the vaccines will provide protection against COVID-19, as well as how well they protect against new variants of the virus. This evidence will help to inform whether a booster (or third dose) will be needed to maintain the best possible protection against COVID-19.

How do I book?

Book now online - www.nsw.gov.au

Call to book: 1800 57 11 55 / Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS): 131 450

> Book your COVID-19 vaccination today at nsw.gov.au