

# COVID-19 Vaccination

For 5-11 year olds

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GP



Department  
of Health

# COVID-19 vaccines in Australia

## Pfizer

- Approved for people aged 5 years+
- Type of vaccine – mRNA
- Primary course: two doses 3-8 weeks apart
- Available in participating general practices, community health services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and state vaccination centres

## Moderna

- Approved for people aged 12+ years
- TGA and ATAGI examining Moderna's application for its vaccine to be used in children aged six to 11.
- Type of vaccine – mRNA
- Primary course: two doses 4-6 weeks apart
- Available in pharmacies and in some state vaccination centres

## AstraZeneca

- Offered to adults 60 years and older
- Some state vaccination centres can provide the AstraZeneca vaccine to adults aged 18 to 59 years for whom Pfizer is not available and the benefits are likely to outweigh the risks
- Type of vaccine – viral vector
- Primary course: two doses 4-12 weeks apart
- Available in participating general practices, community health services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and state vaccination centres

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# COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 – 11 years

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- Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is now being used in children aged 5-11 years in Australia and internationally.
- Dose is a third of the recommended dose for people aged 12 years and older.
- Recommended schedule is 2 doses, 8 weeks apart.
- Children who turn 12 after their first dose may receive the adolescent/adult formulation of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to complete their primary vaccine course.
- Children aged 5-11 years who have previously had COVID-19 infection can receive the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.



# Benefits

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- reduction in COVID-19 illness
- anticipated benefit of reducing the likelihood of school closures and disruptions to extra-curricular and social activities
- anticipated to reduce parental absenteeism and isolation of children and their families
- reduced transmission of COVID-19 among young children may lead to lower COVID-19 incidence in all age groups.



# Precautions

## Children who should not receive the Pfizer vaccine:

- anaphylaxis to a previous dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine
- anaphylaxis after exposure to any component of the vaccine, including polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- any other serious adverse event that an experienced immunisation provider or medical specialist has confirmed was caused by a previous dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, without another cause identified.

## Tell your immunisation provider if your child has had:

- an allergic reaction to a previous dose or to a component of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine
- anaphylaxis to other vaccines or to other medicines – your provider can check to ensure there are no common components with the COVID-19 vaccine your child is receiving
- confirmed mastocytosis with recurrent anaphylaxis that requires treatment.
- bleeding disorder or is taking blood thinning medication.

Unlike some other vaccines, there is no food, gelatin or latex in the COVID-19 vaccines that are currently available.

## Common side effects

- pain, redness or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- headache
- fever and chills.

## Less common side effects

- joint pain
- muscle pain
- vomiting.

## Myocarditis and pericarditis

- Very rare side effect
- People at highest risk = males under the age of 30 years (particularly adolescent males).
- No other risk factors currently identified.

# Planning your child's vaccination



## COVID-19 vaccination planning for young children

As a parent or carer, there are a number of important things to consider before you take your child for their COVID-19 vaccine to try to make it a positive experience for them.

We know that no child likes needles. If your child is anxious about receiving the vaccine, planning ahead and talking to them can help. Here are some things you could discuss / consider with your child:

### Before the vaccination

- **When** would they prefer to get immunised e.g. first thing in the morning or afternoon or perhaps on the weekend.
- **Who** would the child like to go with them to support them? This could be the person who is available but also the person who may be able to keep them most calm.





# Vaccination pathways

- Participating general practices (GPs)
- Pharmacies
- Aboriginal Community Health Services
- Some state vaccination centres



# Other pathways

- School and community pop-up vaccination clinics – stay tuned
- Drive through clinics  
[coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres)
- Severe needle phobia pathways
- In home vaccination for those who are housebound



## Book at a state vaccination centre

### By phone

- Call the Coronavirus hotline **1800 675 398** between 8 am and 8 pm, 7 days a week.



### Online

- [Book online](#)



## Book at a GP or pharmacy

### Online clinic finder

- Book online using the Australian Government's [Vaccination Clinic Finder](#).



# Lizzie Castles

Disability Liaison Officer Coordinator, Victorian Department of Health



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## Supported access to COVID-19 vaccination

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Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) can arrange appointments that meet people's accessibility needs.

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability>

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If someone is unable to get vaccinated via their usual support networks, **Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs)** can assist them to make suitable arrangements.

To contact a DLO you can complete a short online [form](#).

Alternatively, you can email [DL0Coordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:DL0Coordinator@dhhs.vic.gov.au) or call the Coronavirus hotline **1800 675 398** to request referral to a DLO.

# Vaccination options for children aged 5 to 11 years

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- Participating general practices, pharmacies, Aboriginal Community Health Services and some state-run sites.
- Drive through clinics  
[coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres](https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres)
- Accessible clinics
- Severe needle phobia pathways

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability>

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Content	Link
Information for people with a disability, including clinic locations, links to social scripts and referral to Disability Liaison Officer link	<a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability</a>
Vaccination information for children and teenagers including a link to the resource COVID-19 Vaccination Planning for young children	<a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-children-and-teenagers</a>
Vaccination centres   Coronavirus Victoria	<a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres#list-of-vaccination-centres">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-centres#list-of-vaccination-centres</a>
Short videos featuring Associate Professor Margie Danchin, answering some key questions about COVID-19 vaccines and vaccination	<a href="https://www.vaxfacts.org.au/">https://www.vaxfacts.org.au/</a>
Translated information about COVID-19 vaccines	<a href="https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-covid-19-vaccines">https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translated-information-about-covid-19-vaccines</a>



# Thank you

[www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

[COVIDvaccination@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVIDvaccination@health.vic.gov.au)



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# Questions



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