

# COVID-19 Vaccines – Information for residents



The COVID-19 Vaccination Program is starting in Australia now.



People who have the COVID-19 vaccination have a much lower chance of getting sick from COVID-19.



The COVID-19 vaccination is when you get an injection of the vaccine. This is done with a needle in your arm.



You and the staff who support you are in the first group to be offered the vaccine. It is the Pfizer vaccine.



It is free. You don't have to have a Medicare card.



You can choose to have the COVID-19 vaccine. You don't have to have it if you don't want to.



Health staff who have been trained to give the vaccination will come to where you live to offer the vaccine to everyone who lives there as well as the staff.



If you are going to get the vaccine it is important to know:

- There are 2 doses of the vaccine – that means you will need to get 2 injections. They will give the first dose and then about 4 weeks later, give you the second dose.
- Medical experts have studied the COVID-19 vaccines to make sure they are safe.





- It is a small thin needle.



- You can choose to bring someone you trust with you when you have the vaccine, such as a family member, a friend or a staff member.



- You need to give your consent – that means you say it is ok and you say yes to having the vaccine.



- You might have someone who makes those decisions for you – your guardian. They will be contacted to make the decision for you.



- You can talk to your doctor before you decide to check if its right for you, how it might affect your health problems and if there are any risks for you.



- Some people might get side effects. This could be a sore arm, headache, fever or something else. The side effects are usually not severe.



- If you choose not to get the vaccine now, but you change your mind – you can get it later but you will need to get it from your doctor, or other health places that have been set up to give the vaccine.



- You don't need to quarantine after you get the vaccine.



- If you don't live in the same place when its time to get the second dose, the information about your vaccine is part of your Medicare Record and you will get contacted. It will be good to share information with your new accommodation provider about your first dose.



- You have choice over who supports you and you can ask the provider to make sure that the workers who are employed to support you are vaccinated.