COVID-19 VACCINE 2021

What are the side effects of the COVID-19 VACCINE?

All medicines, including vaccines, can have some **side effects**. This is also true for the COVID-19 vaccine.

A side effect is something that sometimes happens to people after they take medicine.

Side effects don't happen to everyone and most are mild.

After you have your vaccination, you might feel some mild side effects. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days. They are also a sign that your immune system is reacting well to the vaccine.

Some **common** side effects include:

- pain or swelling in your arm where the needle went in
- tiredness
- headache
- chills
- fever
- sore muscles or joints.

Other **less common** side effects include:

- redness on your arm where the needle went in
- feeling like you might vomit
- feeling lumps in your neck
- feeling sick in your stomach
- pain in your leg
- not sleeping well
- itching on your arm where the needle went in

If you have any side effects that are worrying you, you should talk with your doctor or support person. A simple pain reliever might be right for you.

Cold pack

You can also use a cold pack on your arm where the needle went in.

Serious side effects

If you have any of the following side effects, you or a support person, should call ooo (triple zero) straight away:

- have trouble breathing
- **wheeze** – this means you hear sounds you don't usually hear when you breathe
- feel a very fast heartbeat
- fall down or faint.

You also should talk to your doctor if you think you are having an **allergic reaction**.

An allergic reaction is when your body reacts to something, such as food or medicine. For example, you might get an itchy rash or your tongue might get bigger.

You should also talk to your doctor if you:

- are worried about a side effect
- have a side effect that lasts more than a couple of days
- have a side effect that isn't in this fact sheet.