



COVID-19 Vaccines

Mythbusters

The COVID-19 vaccine is killing Aboriginal people or making them sick.

Some people may experience side effects after vaccination such as tiredness, muscle soreness and redness around the injection site and mild fever. This is normal for any vaccine. Serious reactions from the vaccine are extremely rare, and no Aboriginal people have died from the COVID vaccine.

The vaccine will poison our children.

In Australia, all vaccines are thoroughly tested before they are made available to the community and the many benefits of vaccination outweighs the risks for all children and adolescents aged 12 years and older. Billions of people have already been safely vaccinated around the world. It's important to be vaccinated to protect our children from COVID-19, which spreads quickly.

The vaccine implants a microchip in me that will track our movements.

The COVID-19 vaccines do not contain a tracking microchip. Microchips are too large to be administered through needle injection.

Only white people get COVID-19.

No, all humans can get COVID-19 and our people can get sick from the virus just like anyone else. People who already have health issues can get seriously ill.

Outbreaks around the country have showed how quickly the virus can spread through our communities. In Wilcannia in NSW this year, 20% of the town's population got COVID-19, most of whom were Aboriginal.

Only old people get sick from COVID-19.

The elderly and people with medical conditions such as heart disease and diabetes are most at risk, but young people can also get very sick and die from COVID-19.

Everyone getting vaccinated will help to protect those most at risk from COVID-19.

The vaccine changes your DNA.

The vaccine does not change your DNA. While mRNA does transmit information to the body in the cells, it does not go near the cell's nucleus, which is where DNA is located.



Women who are breastfeeding, pregnant or planning a pregnancy should not get vaccinated.

It is especially important that these women get vaccinated.

Pregnant women have a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and their babies have a higher risk of being born prematurely. There is also no evidence that people who are trying to get pregnant have any safety concerns.

The COVID-19 vaccine makes you infertile.

There is no evidence whatsoever that any of the antibodies that are produced to help your body fight the infection as a result of the vaccine, have any impact on the development of the placental or on your capacity to get pregnant or be fertile.

The vaccine was created from foetal tissue.

There is no actual foetal tissue present in COVID-19 vaccines.

Medical Researchers who are developing vaccines sometimes use foetal cell lines that are grown in a laboratory on aborted foetal cells, to test vaccines.

The COVID-19 vaccines were made too quickly to be safe.

Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines have been able to be developed faster than any other vaccine for several reasons:

- a level of funding and commitment not seen before,
- the availability of new technologies, and
- researchers and developers around the world working together.

You can still get COVID-19 after you have had the vaccine, so there's no point.

It is possible to still get COVID-19 even if you have had a double dose of the vaccine, but the vaccine stops you from getting so sick that you need to go to hospital.

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Information on the COVID-19 vaccine and pregnancy

Planning

Does the vaccine stop me having a baby?

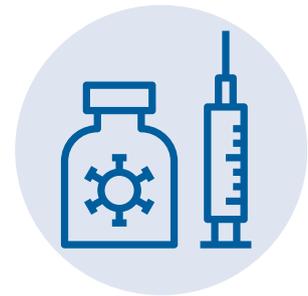
No.

The vaccine won't stop you from getting pregnant.

When should I get the vaccine?

Get it now.

You can get it before you're pregnant, or if you are already pregnant or if you are breastfeeding. The sooner the better for you and baby.



Pregnancy

Why should I get the vaccine?

Pregnant women who get COVID-19 can get very sick.

The vaccine protects you from getting very sick from COVID-19.

This is very important in the last three months, so get vaccinated early.

Pregnant women with COVID-19 can have a still birth, or the baby might come too early, so get vaccinated now.

Which vaccine will I get?

You will get the Pfizer or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, which are both safe.



Will the vaccine hurt my baby?

No.

The vaccine will help protect you and your baby from getting very sick from COVID-19.



Have pregnant women had the COVID-19 vaccination before?

Yes.

Over 200,000 women across the world have now been vaccinated. Mothers and babies are safe and well, vaccination helped them from getting very sick from COVID.



Can I wait until after the baby's born?

Yes, it is your choice, but it is better to have the vaccine as soon as you can, so you are safe at the end of your pregnancy and when the baby is born.

Breastfeeding

Can I breastfeed after getting the vaccine?

Yes.

Getting the vaccine will help keep you and your baby from getting very sick from COVID. Breast milk is the best for your baby.



This information sheet was developed by WA Health in collaboration with the Maternal and Child Health team at the Derbarl Yerrigan health service.

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Information on the COVID-19 Vaccine

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a virus (illness) that can make you really sick. It can give you flu-like symptoms with a high fever, cough, sore throat and shortness of breath. It can attack your lungs and cause chest infections (pneumonia) and possibly death.



Why is the COVID-19 vaccine important?

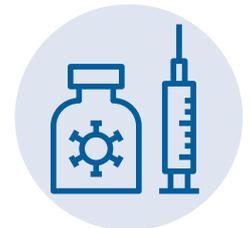
The COVID-19 vaccine works just like the flu needle. It helps your body fight the virus and protects you from getting really sick. It reduces the risk of you spreading the illness to the community, including your family and friends.

You will need two doses of the vaccine for it to work the right way.

The person giving you the vaccine will let you know when you need to get your second dose (for the Pfizer vaccine this is 3 to 6 weeks after your first dose).

Which vaccine will I receive?

You will be offered the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty) unless there is a medical reason for you not to be given this vaccine. Most Australians can safely receive the Pfizer vaccine, and it is the preferred vaccine for people aged 12 to 59 years.



Giving your consent

If you agree (say yes) to getting your COVID-19 vaccine, the person giving you your vaccination will ask you to **give your consent** (permission to give you the vaccine needle).

When you give your consent (say yes), you are saying it is okay for someone to vaccinate you (give you the COVID-19 needle).



Remember it is up to you. You can choose to have the vaccine or you can choose not to have the vaccine if you don't want to.

You can talk to your health clinic, doctor or nurse for more information about the COVID-19 vaccination.



Side effects

After you have your vaccination, you might feel some symptoms or side effects. Most side effects are not serious and will go away in a couple of days.

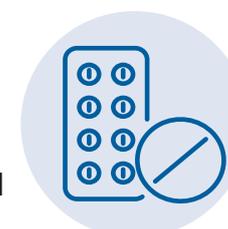
Common side effects can include:

- pain or swelling in your arm where the needle went in
- fever (feeling hot and sweaty)
- sore muscles or joints
- headache
- chills (feeling cold and shaky)
- tiredness.



Less common side effects include:

- feeling sick in the stomach
- not sleeping well
- leg pain.



If you have any side effects, you can take simple pain medication like paracetamol or ibuprofen.

For symptoms that are not urgent, you can see your usual health clinic, doctor or nurse.

You should call 000 or seek urgent medical care if you experience severe symptoms after vaccination, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.



Do I still need to get the flu shot?

The COVID-19 vaccine does not protect against the flu, so you still need to get your flu shot. Wait at least 7 days between getting your flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine.



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