



# Patient Information on COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca

## About the vaccine

This vaccine helps to protect people from getting very sick from COVID-19 (coronavirus)  
This vaccine **cannot give you COVID-19** as it does not contain any live COVID-19 virus.

### THIS VACCINE CONTAINS:

- ✓ A modified cold sick virus that has been disguised to look like the COVID-19 virus, so that your body gets ready to fight off COVID-19 if an infected person comes near you.
- ✓ Stabilisers to keep all the ingredients together so they stick to the side of the vial it comes in (the same things that are inside other vaccines).
- ✓ Sterile water to dilute the vaccine.

### THIS VACCINE DOES NOT CONTAIN:

- ✗ Preservatives
- ✗ Human products
- ✗ Animal products
- ✗ Food, latex or gelatin

## BENEFITS

This vaccine is good at preventing people from getting really sick, needing to go to hospital and dying from COVID-19.

## SAFETY

Almost 200 million people around the world have received this vaccine and it is very safe.

A group of Australian experts (called the TGA) has looked very carefully at all the research from around the world and has approved the use of this vaccine for Australian people.

You should also be aware of the current investigation into a rare type of blood clotting reported after COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. Very rare cases of an unusual type of blood clot in the brain or guts have been reported between 4 and 20 days after AstraZeneca vaccination.

The risk of having this side effect is very rare and this risk seems to be less in people over 50 years old. People over 50 years are also more likely to become very sick if they get COVID-19.

For this reason, the AstraZeneca vaccine is considered safe for people 50 years and older.

## WHO CAN HAVE IT

AstraZeneca is recommended for those aged 50 years and older, especially those who are the most at risk of severe disease in our community, including old people, people with diabetes, heart problems, kidney disease and weakened immune systems.

## WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE IT

Anyone who has had a severe allergic reaction to the first dose of the vaccine.

## HOW MANY DOSES WILL I NEED?

2 doses. The second dose is due 3 months after your 1st dose. The vaccine is even more effective after your 2nd dose, so remember to come back!

## SIDE-EFFECTS

Not everyone will get side-effects after receiving the vaccine. But if you do, these might be:

- Sore, red arm
- Feeling feverish
- Headache
- Feeling tired
- Body aches

These feelings will go away after 1 or 2 days, but if you need to, you can choose to take paracetamol.

## NOT SURE YET?

No worries! Take your time to think about it and feel free to ask any questions to your nurse or your doctor. When you are ready, you can come back to the clinic for a COVID-19 vaccine.