COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

ARM yourself AGAINST COVID-19

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Were COVID-19 vaccines developed too quickly to be safe?

It may seem vaccines were developed quickly, but researchers around the world have been working hard to develop vaccines from the start of the pandemic. They were able to speed up development thanks to the collaboration between them, scientists, manufacturers and distributors.

Does the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) COVID-19 vaccine cause blood clots?

There has been a link established between the Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) vaccine and a very rare but serious side effect called thrombosis in combination with thrombocytopenia. There is a very low chance of this side effect, which may occur in around 4-6 people in every million after being vaccinated.

Do people who have had COVID-19 and recovered need to get vaccinated?

People who have had COVID-19 and recovered should still be vaccinated. The protection someone gains from having COVID-19 varies from person to person.

Can COVID-19 vaccines alter my DNA?

No, COVID-19 vaccines do not alter your DNA.

Are COVID-19 vaccines not effective?

No. The Comirnaty (Pfizer), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Spikevax (Moderna) vaccines are very effective at preventing people from severe illness, hospitalisation and death if they catch COVID-19.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine work if coronavirus mutates?

All viruses mutate. COVID-19 is no different and there have been reports in media recently about new strains of the virus. Evidence tells us that the COVID-19 vaccines will still be effective against these new variants.

Do COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility?

The TGA will not approve a vaccine for use in Australia unless it is safe and effective. This includes impacts on fertility. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently approved, or under review by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) cause sterilisation/infertility.

Do people have to receive two doses and do they have to be the same type of COVID-19 vaccine for it to be effective?

Yes, Comirnaty (Pfizer), Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca) and Spikevax (Moderna) all require two doses to provide the best immunity. It is important you get the same type of COVID-19 vaccine. This is because the evidence from clinical trials shows this is effective and is what is approved for use by the TGA.

Are COVID-19 vaccines mandatory in Australia?

Vaccination for COVID-19 is voluntary – as are all vaccinations in Australia – and people maintain the option to choose. This will apply to any COVID-19 vaccination that may become available. There may be circumstances in the future, however where there may be border entry or re-entry requirements that are conditional on proof of vaccination.

Want more accurate, evidence-based answers to questions about COVID-19 vaccines?

Find out more at

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