

COVID-19 Vaccine Safety and effectiveness

The Australian Government aims to have as many people as possible vaccinated against COVID-19 in 2021.

The Therapeutic Goods Administration's (TGA) rigorous assessment process will ensure all approved COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. All vaccines are thoroughly tested for safety before they are approved for use in Australia. This includes careful analysis of clinical trial data, ingredients, chemistry, manufacturing and other factors. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine has been provisionally approved by the TGA for people 16 years and older. Pfizer will be required to continue providing information to the TGA on the safety, efficacy and quality of the vaccine.

Provisional approval of the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is currently anticipated in February.

Want to know more about how COVID-19 vaccines are tested and approved? Check out the [video on their website](#).

You can also talk to your GP or a health professional about the COVID-19 vaccines and why vaccination is an important part of keeping the community safe and healthy.

TGA advises no specific risk from Pfizer/BioNTech for elderly people

After a recent assessment by the European Medicines Agency Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee, the TGA has concluded that there is no specific risk of vaccination with the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in elderly people. Elderly people can receive this vaccine and there is no cap on the upper age limit.

You can read more about this on the [TGA's website](#).

Keep up to date with trusted information

The Department of Health understands that potentially incorrect and harmful information about the COVID-19 vaccination program is being distributed to residential aged care facilities by people not connected to those facilities. The Australian Government urges aged care providers and staff to obtain trusted and reliable information. You can find this information and resources, including translated materials, on the COVID-19 vaccines website, and subscribe to receive the [COVID-19 Vaccines Updates](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for residential aged care facilities

The department has published new information for residential aged care facilities and workers about the [roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines](#).

On the Australian Department of Health's website you can download:

- [newsletter article for providers and workers](#)
- [information sheet for providers and workers](#)
- [social media tiles and messages](#)
- [poster](#)
- [information sheet for residents and their families and representatives](#)
- [frequently asked questions](#).

In particular, further detail and operational information will be provided soon on:

- the vaccine rollout, including information about what will happen on the day of vaccination
- obtaining and recording consent and registering vaccinations
- vaccination for family, representatives and carers who are regular visitors and provide key support to residents in RACFs
- Primary Health Networks (PHN) and their role in the COVID-19 vaccine roll out to RACFs.