

Information for Phase 1A vaccine recipients



Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you, your family, your friends and the community. Vaccination is free. It is strongly recommended for everyone aged 18 years or older and all Tasmanians will be given the opportunity to receive a vaccination.

About your COVID-19 vaccination

As supply is currently limited, first doses are being offered to those at highest-risk of getting the virus or getting very sick from it.

The first phase of the Tasmanian rollout – called Phase 1A – is offering vaccination to:

- Quarantine and border workers (including staff involved in management and running of quarantine facilities)
- Selected frontline healthcare workers
- Residential aged care and disability care staff (this will be managed by the Australian Government)

People in these categories are being identified by their employers and will be contacted directly by the Public Health Hotline to make vaccination appointments.

Your vaccination is free and will be administered by authorised immunisers and medical practitioners who have completed COVID-19 vaccination training.

You will need to receive two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, 21 days apart, at the same vaccination clinic. An appointment for your second dose will be made at the time as the booking for your first dose.

Preparing for your COVID-19 vaccination

You will need to let the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic know about any health conditions or medications that you are taking, including if you:

- Have any severe allergies, particularly anaphylaxis (to anything), or have been prescribed an adrenaline autoinjector (EpiPen)
- Have had a reaction to a vaccine or any components of a vaccine in the past
- Have any allergies or anaphylaxis to any medications where polyethylene glycol (PEG) was thought to be a possible cause
- Have an immunodeficiency, autoimmune condition, bleeding disorder or are receiving anticoagulant therapy (a blood thinner)
- Are pregnant, planning pregnancy, or breastfeeding
- Have received another COVID-19 vaccine (and which brand)
- Have received any vaccine in the last 14 days

If you are pregnant, planning pregnancy, or are on treatment for autoimmune conditions or immunodeficiencies medications you should discuss COVID-19 vaccination further with your GP.

What to bring to your appointment

- Photo ID
- Your Medicare card, if you have one
- Employee ID, if you work for a health facility
- Information about any of your medical conditions, particularly allergies or bleeding disorders
- Information about any medications you are taking
- Information about any vaccines you have had in the past 14 days
- Information about any previous COVID-19 vaccine received (vaccine brand and date of vaccination)

If you become sick or cannot make your scheduled appointment

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you are unwell, a confirmed case of COVID-19, are awaiting a COVID-19 test result, have been identified as a contact by Public Health Services and have been advised to quarantine.

Call the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic as early as possible on **0429 378 324** to reschedule.

Missed appointments may result in a valuable vaccine dose going to waste, or your immunity being compromised if you do not have your second dose within the recommended timeframe.

What will happen at your first appointment

At your first appointment you will be asked to complete a consent form, to confirm your personal and health details and your understanding of the vaccine you will receive.

You must agree to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after vaccination for observation in case an allergic reaction occurs. If you carry an EpiPen or have a history of anaphylaxis in response to the ingredients of the COVID vaccine (including PEG), you will be required to stay for 30 minutes. Read more about the vaccine at www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccines

Vaccine side-effects

You may experience some side-effects after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

They are generally mild and resolve within a couple of days of vaccination. They may include pain around the point of injection, fatigue, headaches and muscle pain. You do not need a COVID-19 test unless you develop respiratory symptoms (including loss of smell).

When to seek medical attention

Call your usual healthcare provider if:

- You are concerned about new or unexpected symptoms
- You have symptoms that are not going away, or getting worse, after a few days

Call **000** (Triple Zero) in the event of a medical emergency, including difficulty breathing, wheezing, clammy skin, confusion, a fast heartbeat, or collapse/loss of consciousness.

You may be contacted after vaccination to answer an SMS survey with questions about any side effects that you experienced. You can also report any symptoms you are concerned about to your usual healthcare provider, who will report suspected adverse events on your behalf, or notify directly via the Public Health Hotline on **1800 671 738**. Any adverse events will then be reported to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, to contribute to vaccine safety monitoring in Australia.

Recording your vaccination

Information about your vaccination will be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register, which you can access online via your Medicare/MyGov/MyHealthRecord account. You will also be offered a wallet-sized card at each appointment. This can be used as proof of vaccination, should you require it for any reason. More information about the register can be found here: www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/australian-immunisation-register

COVID-19 safety after your vaccination

After receiving a vaccine, all Tasmanians must continue to practice COVID-safe behaviours, including physical distancing and good hand and respiratory hygiene. Stay home if you're sick and get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms.

Continue to follow the recommended infection prevention and control measures in your workplace (if relevant), even after you are vaccinated.

Answering your questions

You will be able to raise any questions you have about COVID-19 vaccination at your appointment, or with your GP before your appointment. For more information about Tasmania's vaccination program visit www.coronavirus.tas.gov.au/vaccine