



# Access reserved COVID-19 vaccination appointments

For people with or recovering from cancer

3 August 2021

**OFFICIAL**

## Reserved COVID-19 vaccine appointments

Victoria has reserved COVID-19 vaccine appointments for people aged 16 years and over deemed to be vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19, including people with or recovering from cancer. This helps people get vaccinated sooner and ensures appointments are available at vaccination centres that are convenient.

People with the following conditions can access reserved appointments:

- Haematological diseases or cancers
- Solid organ transplant recipients who are on immune suppressive therapy
- Bone marrow transplant recipients or chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR-T) therapy recipients or those with graft host disease
- Non-haematological cancer
- Adult survivors of childhood cancers
- Chronic inflammatory conditions requiring medical treatments
- Primary or acquired immunodeficiency

This is not an exhaustive list. The overarching principle is that those at higher risk of severe disease should be able to access a reserved appointment.

## Cancer and COVID-19 vaccination

- COVID-19 vaccination for patients with cancer is highly recommended.
- People with cancer are at no greater risk of side effects from COVID-19 vaccines than anyone else.
- Cancer patients have a higher risk of morbidity and mortality associated with COVID-19 infection.
- None of the approved vaccines in Australia contain the live virus. This means they cannot give you COVID-19.

## Which vaccine will you get?

You will receive the Pfizer vaccine regardless of your age.

## How to book a reserved COVID-19 vaccine appointment

Reserved appointments are only available by calling the **Victorian Coronavirus hotline on 1800 675 398**. Please tell the hotline operator you are **deemed to be vulnerable and at high risk from COVID-19**.

They will not ask you questions about your medical condition.

## Before you get vaccinated

- If you are undergoing treatment, consult your treating specialist or doctor regarding optimal vaccination timing.
- Wherever possible, ask your doctor for a letter to take to your immunisation appointment stating that you've discussed your suitability for COVID-19 vaccination.

## Preparing for vaccination

After you book your appointment you will receive an email confirmation. Please read this email carefully, as it has important instructions about what you need to do on the day of your vaccination.

### What to bring

- Medicare card (if you have one) or Individual Health Identifier (if you have one)
- Photo ID that shows date of birth (e.g. A Victorian driver's licence)
- Proof of an underlying medical condition such as a letter from your treating specialist/GP or complete the [Eligibility Declaration Form](#)

You should wait at least 7 days after the flu vaccine to receive a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

## More information

For more information visit: [www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccine)

For additional information please refer to below links.

- <https://www.canceraustralia.gov.au/affected-cancer/covid-19-and-cancer/covid-19-vaccines-and-cancer/FAQs>
- [www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines](http://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines)
- [Information about COVID-19 vaccines in your language](#)
- [What should I do before I get vaccinated for COVID-19?](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 Pfizer \(Comirnaty\) vaccine](#)
- [Information on COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine](#)
- [After your COVID-19 Pfizer \(COMIRNATY\) vaccination](#)
- [After your COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccination](#)
- [Where to get tested for COVID-19](#)

## Keep COVIDSafe

Continue all COVID safe practices as although vaccines greatly reduce severe disease and death they do not completely prevent you from contracting the virus.

- Wear a face mask when required
- Check in using the Victorian Government QR code.
- Aim to stay 1.5 metres apart.
- If you have COVID-19 symptoms, get tested and return home immediately.