

COVID-19 vaccine update from SA Health

Important: This information is current as of Thursday 1 July 2021

Vaccine rollout:

- From 17 June in South Australia, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be given to eligible people 16 – 59 years at SA Health COVID-19 vaccination clinics.
- On 28 June 2021, following a meeting of National Cabinet, the Prime Minister [announced](#) two planned changes to the national COVID-19 vaccine rollout:
 - Mandatory vaccination for all residential aged care facility workers as a condition of working in a residential aged care facility. This change will be implemented in partnership between the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments. Further information about how this will impact South Australian residential aged care facilities and their staff will be provided soon as SA Health works through the implications of this proposed change.
 - The Commonwealth Government will be implementing a new no-fault indemnity scheme for general practitioners who administer COVID-19 vaccines. Current ATAGI advice does not preclude persons under 60 from getting the AstraZeneca vaccine. This change will encourage people who wish to get the AstraZeneca vaccine to have a discussion with their GP about COVID-19 vaccination. The Commonwealth Government will provide more information to GPs, peak bodies and the public shortly.
- SA Health COVID-19 vaccination clinics will begin to phase out providing the [AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine](#). People will still be able to access the AstraZeneca vaccine at participating GPs and Respiratory Clinics.
- People who had their first dose of [AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine](#) at an SA Health COVID-19 vaccination clinic will still be able to have their second dose at the same clinic.
- As of Wednesday 30 June, **7,667,382** doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in Australia and over **2.8 billion** doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been given globally.
- As of Wednesday 30 June, **550,281** doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been delivered across South Australia.
- There is a high demand for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at the moment. Please be patient as we work through changes in vaccine advice and make more appointments available.
- Throughout July and August, more Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines will become available. Pfizer vaccines also start to be delivered by selected GPs.

Vaccines and restrictions – new FAQs:

- **Can I get my vaccination while I am in quarantine?**
 - You can attend your COVID-19 vaccination appointment while in quarantine from an interstate restricted zone, provided you have not been directed to quarantine by the Communicable Disease Control Branch (SA Health) or been at an interstate exposure location at the specified date and time. This is in line with the current Cross Border Travel Direction, which allows access to medical care.
 - You must wear a face mask while you access your vaccination and at any time that you come into contact with the public.
- **Do I still need to quarantine if I've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19?**
 - You will still need to comply with the relevant state and territory restrictions, including quarantine and testing requirements, even if you've been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
 - This is because you can still catch COVID-19 even if you have been fully vaccinated, and you could pass the virus on to other people who may not be vaccinated.

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- **Do I still need to have a COVID-19 test if I have symptoms of COVID-19, even if I have been fully vaccinated?**
 - Even if you have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should still have a COVID-19 test if you develop symptoms of COVID-19, no matter how mild.
 - This is because you can still catch COVID-19 even if you have been fully vaccinated, and you could pass the virus on to other people who may not be vaccinated. It's important to get tested for COVID-19 if you are unwell to help us detect any COVID-19 in our community early before it can spread to others.

Vaccination clinics in metropolitan Adelaide:

- Metropolitan state COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics are open in Wayville, Noarlunga, Elizabeth and North Adelaide offering both Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for eligible people.
- The Elizabeth COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic has a dedicated vaccination space for Aboriginal people, staffed by Aboriginal Health Workers.
- The Wayville COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic will continue to operate throughout the Royal Adelaide Show period to provide a convenient way for South Australians to access the vaccine.
- The Northern Vaccination Centre in Pooraka, operated by Adelaide Primary Health Network (Adelaide PHN), will be offering Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines for eligible people. Appointments are available from July and can be made via the Commonwealth government's eligibility checker.

Flu vaccinations:

- South Australians are encouraged to roll up their sleeve for their annual flu vaccine.
- The minimum interval between COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines (including influenza vaccine) is 7 days, but can be shortened (including same day administration) in special circumstances (previous advice recommended a minimum interval of 14 days).

AstraZeneca vaccine advice:

- ATAGI has reviewed their advice on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. [ATAGI recommend Pfizer as the preferred vaccine for people aged under 60 years](#). This doesn't change who is currently eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine but the Pfizer is now the preferred vaccine for people under 60. From 17 June 2021, eligible South Australians who are aged 16 to 59 will receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
- The recommendation ATAGI have made is based on new evidence that has emerged that demonstrates a higher risk of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) in the 50-59 year old age group than initially thought. The benefits of the vaccine still vastly outweigh any risk for people aged 60 and over.
- If you are 50-59 and booked in to an SA Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic to receive your first dose, you should attend your appointment. You will be given the vaccine recommended for you.
- If you are 50-59 and booked in at a GP to receive your first dose, you should reschedule your appointment at a Pfizer vaccination site.
- If you have already had your first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, advice from ATAGI is that you can safely receive the second dose as planned, if you did not experience a serious adverse event, following your first dose.
- Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) is a rare and new syndrome which involves blood clots (occurring in body sites like the brain or abdomen) together with low platelet levels.
- Almost all cases of TTS reported to date have occurred after the first dose of the vaccine. ATAGI advice is that for people who have had their first dose without any serious side effects, they can proceed with their second dose.

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- On Thursday 17 June, ATAGI released updated risk estimates for TTS. From early April to 16 June 2021, [60 cases of confirmed or probable](#) TTS have been reported in Australia. This includes an additional seven cases reported in the past week in people between 50-59 years, increasing the rate in this age group from 1.9 to 2.7 per 100,000 AstraZeneca vaccine doses. The revised estimates of risk associated with first doses of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca are listed in the table below.
 - 3.1 per 100,000 in those <50 years
 - 2.7 per 100,000 in those 50-59 years
 - 1.4 per 100,000 in those 60-69 years
 - 1.8 per 100,000 in those 70-79 years
 - 1.9 per 100,000 in those ≥80 years.
- The risk of TTS is not likely to be increased in people with the following conditions, and people in these groups can receive COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca:
 - History of blood clots in typical sites
 - Increased clotting tendency that is not immune mediated
 - Family history of blood clots
 - History of ischaemic heart disease or stroke
 - Current or past thrombocytopenia (low platelet count)
 - Those receiving anticoagulation therapy
- The list of conditions for which Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the preferred vaccine include:
 - Past history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)
 - Past history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)
 - Past history of idiopathic splanchnic (mesenteric, portal, splenic) vein thrombosis
 - Antiphospholipid syndrome with thrombosis
 - People with contraindications to COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca:
 - Anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, or to an ingredient of the vaccine
 - Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia occurring after the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
 - Other serious adverse events attributed to the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
- TTS can be treated effectively. Guidance on the identification and management of TTS is available from the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand.
- More information about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is available on the [Australian Department of Health website](#).

Vaccine safety:

- Australia's vaccine safety and regulatory process is world class and people can be confident that vaccines approved for use are safe and effective.
- The vaccines will save lives and are an essential part of tackling this global pandemic.
- Anyone who has received a COVID vaccine should be aware of the common side effects, which include fever, sore muscles, tiredness and headache. These side effects are expected and are not of concern unless severe or persistent.
- People who have received the AstraZeneca vaccine should also be aware of the symptoms of TTS. Symptoms include severe, persistent headaches that are different to your "usual" pattern and do not settle with paracetamol or other painkillers. People who experience these symptoms should seek medical advice as soon as possible.

Second dose:

- Both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines require the full two-dose course for the best immune response.

- Pfizer doses are recommended to be given 3 weeks apart and AstraZeneca doses are recommended to be given 12 weeks apart. The difference in intervals between the vaccines is due to higher efficacy seen after a longer interval between doses with the AstraZeneca vaccine. If a delay occurs, it's important to still have the second dose to ensure greater protection.
- The vaccines are not interchangeable, and the two-dose course must be completed with the same vaccine.
- If someone has received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine without experiencing a serious adverse event, they can safely receive their second dose and they are strongly encouraged to do so.

Vaccination in regional SA:

- All people 16 years of age and over living in a regional council area can book to get vaccinated at their local SA Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. People must bring proof of residential address to their appointment (e.g. driver's license or utilities bill). Some clinics may only offer appointments for people under 60 (Pfizer) or for people 60 years and over (AstraZeneca). More information is available at sahealth.sa.gov.au/regionalclinics.

Disability:

- NDIS participants and their associated carers are now eligible to get vaccinated if they are aged 16 and over.
- Essential carers (paid and unpaid) including carers who are also family members of someone with disability or an elderly person, are also now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- People with a disability and essential carers can get vaccinated against COVID-19 by booking an appointment [online](#).
- To ensure the quick vaccination of disability staff, SA Health is making the Pfizer vaccine available to all disability workers, who are responsible for the care, support and services for people with disability.
- This includes nursing, support and personal care workers, disability workers with regular face to face roles in delivery of services to people with a disability, GPs, allied health and other healthcare professionals and students on placement.
- Staff must be employed, hired, retained or contracted to provide services under the control of a provider through which they provide services to people with disability.
- Disability workers aged 16 to 59 can book [online](#) or workers 60 years and over can book by calling 1800 253 787 (9.00 am to 5.00 pm, 7 days).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 16 and over can get vaccinated against COVID-19 and can book [online](#). Tailored information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People is available on the [SA Health website](#).

Pregnant women:

- From 16 June, pregnant women are eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in South Australia. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) have recommended that pregnant women can receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at any stage of pregnancy due to the risk of more severe disease for pregnant women and their unborn child.
- Pregnant women aged 40 years and over can book their appointment using the online booking system. Pregnant women aged 16 to 39 can book their appointment by calling the SA COVID-19 Information Line on 1800 253 787.

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Roll up South Australia:

- To encourage South Australians to 'Roll up' when it's their turn to get vaccinated, SA Health has launched an advertising campaign across TV, digital, radio and print. A range of resources including posters, email banner and a brochure is available at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/RollUpResources.
- Digital billboards at 13 locations across the Adelaide metropolitan area are keeping a running tally of vaccine doses administered in South Australia, letting all South Australians know how many people have already rolled up to protect themselves, their loved ones and the wider community.

Vaccination certificates:

- Australians can already access their immunisation history statement through the Australian Immunisation Register for proof of vaccination, both digitally and in hard copy, if required.
- Statements can be viewed on an individual's Medicare online account or via the Medicare app. Your immunisation history statement will record your COVID-19 vaccinations, following each dose.
- People without a Medicare card can request an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI) from the Australian Government to get an immunisation summary through My Health Record that will provide proof of vaccination.
- On Friday 4 June, the Commonwealth Government announced that people will be able to access vaccination certificates on their phones from July.

COVID-19 vaccination program and vaccine FAQs:

- The SA Health Frequently Asked Questions are frequently updated as new information becomes available. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and the rollout in South Australia visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidvaccinefaqs

Play your part in the fight against COVID-19 and roll up:

- The COVID-19 vaccine will be an important tool in our fight against COVID-19 and all eligible South Australians will have access to a vaccine in the coming months.
- The vaccine will be one of the most important tools to protect our community, however all need to continue to be COVID Safe:
 - Practise good hygiene
 - Practise physical distancing
 - Stay home and get tested when sick
 - Check in to venues and events using the COVID SAfe Check-In.
- Even if you are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, you should still have a COVID-19 test if you develop any symptoms, no matter how mild. The goal of vaccination is to stop you from getting very sick. It is still possible for you to catch COVID-19 and pass it on to others, even if you have received the vaccine.
- SA Health is your trusted source for information on the South Australian COVID-19 vaccination program. For up to date information visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
- The National Coronavirus Helpline is the front door for all vaccine enquiries for the community and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1800 020 080.