



## COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

Kingscliff Health is pleased to advise that we are an approved COVID-19 vaccine provider.

Vaccines are being rolled out in [phases](#), with those most at risk receiving vaccinations first.

We are now vaccinating people 60 years and over, under phase 2A of the roll out. All members of the community eligible under phase 1A, 1B and 2A are welcome – you do not need to be a patient of Kingscliff Health to receive a vaccination from us.

Vaccinations are voluntary and free.

[COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca](#) is currently being used in participating general practices for people in phase 1A, 1B and 2A.

## BEFORE YOU MAKE A BOOKING

Before making a booking with us, please ensure you satisfy all items the [checklist](#) below. The information on this website and external links will enable you to do so. This process will enable you to make an informed decision regarding receiving a COVID-19 vaccination, and ensure we will be able to safely provide you with a vaccination on the day of your appointment.

Checklist Items:

- I wish to be vaccinated with [COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca](#).
- I am [eligible](#) to receive the vaccine under the phase 1A or 1B of the national rollout.
- My [Medicare details](#) are up to date.
- I do not have any [contra-indications](#) to COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
- I have considered the [precautions](#) to COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca relevant to me.
- I have considered the [special circumstances](#) regarding COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca relevant to me.
- I understand that the recommended [minimum timeframe](#) between receiving a dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and any other vaccine is 7 days.
- I have read and understood the [consent form](#) for COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
- I understand the [vaccination process](#) involves two doses of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, delivered via injection, approximately 12 weeks apart.
- I understand that whilst [adverse events](#) are extremely rare, they can occur.
- I understand that I will have to wait for up to 30 minutes after my vaccination for observation in case of an immediate adverse event.
- I understand that [side effects](#) can occur after receiving COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
- I understand that the [safety](#) COVID-19 AstraZeneca will be continuously monitored throughout the vaccination program, and that I may be contacted via SMS in the week after vaccination for a brief survey.
- I understand that I will need to continue to follow other [preventive measures](#) once vaccinated.
- I understand that there are certain circumstances in which I will need to [cancel my vaccination](#) appointment.
- I will wear a mask and clothing that allows access to my upper arm for my vaccination appointment.
- I understand that my temperature will be taken upon arrival for my vaccination appointment.
- I will bring identification, my Medicare card, [proof of my eligibility](#), and a completed [consent form](#) to my vaccination appointment.
- I understand that I will be able to access a [record of my vaccination](#) online.
- I do not have any further questions or concerns OR I have booked an appointment with my usual GP to discuss my further questions and concerns.

## MAKE A BOOKING

Once you have ensured you satisfy all items on the checklist above, please call us on [02 6670 1400](tel:0266701400) to make a booking.

## KEEP UP TO DATE

To keep up to date regarding Kingscliff Health's COVID-19 vaccine clinic, check this webpage regularly, or follow us on [Facebook](#).

The latest news and information about COVID-19 vaccines in Australia from the Department of Health is available [here](#).

## **COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA**

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca can prevent people from becoming ill from COVID-19. It does not contain any live SARS-CoV-2 virus (the virus that causes COVID-19), and it cannot give you COVID-19.

A combination of several clinical trials showed that COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is safe and effective. People who received two doses of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca were about 62-70 per cent less likely to get COVID-19 than people who did not receive the vaccine. Protection against COVID-19 starts from about 3 weeks after the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. While one dose may give some protection, it may only last for the short-term. The second dose boosts antibody levels and is likely to prolong the duration of protection, and studies show the highest degree of protection when given 12 weeks apart.

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca vaccine has been provisionally approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for people 18 years and older. Detailed information from the TGA regarding approval can be found at <https://www.tga.gov.au/media-release/tga-provisionally-approves-astrazenecas-covid-19-vaccine>. However, due to evidence of a link between COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and an extremely rare blood clotting syndrome, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia (TTS), the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended that the use of Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer) is preferred over COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca in adults under 60 years old who have not already had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. Information in this regard can be found [here](#).

## **RECENT CONCERNS REGARDING COVID-19 VACCINE ASTRAZENECA**

### **FAQs**

#### **What are the concerns regarding the AstraZeneca vaccine?**

There is evidence of a link between the AstraZeneca vaccine and an extremely rare blood clotting syndrome, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia (TTS).

#### **What is the new ATAGI advice and how does it change eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine?**

The Australian Technical Advisory group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has reviewed their advice on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. They recommend that 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 it means the Pfizer is now the preferred vaccine for people under 60.

### **Why have they changed the advice on who should receive the AstraZeneca vaccine?**

ATAGI have been meeting every week to review their advice on the AstraZeneca vaccine. Monitoring how vaccines are working in the community is a very important part of ensuring they are safe and effective, and are doing what they say they will.

The recommendation ATAGI have made is based on new evidence that has emerged that demonstrates a higher risk of 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.

### **What if I have had a dose of AstraZeneca and I am worried about side effects?**

If you have recently had your first vaccine dose and are experiencing any side effects that you are worried about, book an appointment to discuss with your usual doctor.

### **If have already had one dose of AstraZeneca, should I have a different vaccine for my second dose?**

No this isn't necessary. If you have already had one dose of AstraZeneca and you did not experience severe side effects, there is no reason you cannot receive a second dose of AstraZeneca.

The rare blood clotting condition, TTS, is rarer still in second doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine, and the chances of severe side effects when mixing vaccine doses is higher than any risk.

It is important that every person who receives a COVID-19 vaccine receive the full two-dose course.

### **I am aged 50 to 59 years old and I have an appointment to receive my first AstraZeneca vaccine at my GP. Do I need to change my booking?**

If you are aged 50 to 59 years and you have an appointment to receive your first dose of AstraZeneca, it is recommended you discuss your options with your health professional.

You can reschedule your appointment at a Pfizer vaccination site. Effective immediately, the 21 Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics currently providing the Pfizer vaccines will open eligibility to people aged 50-59 years.

From 5 July, 1,300 general practices around the country and additional Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics will progressively begin delivering Pfizer vaccinations.

You can use the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#) to find your closest Pfizer location.

### **Is the AstraZeneca vaccine still safe for people aged 60 years and over?**

Yes. ATAGI continues to recommend AstraZeneca vaccine for people aged 60 years and over.

The incidence of TTS is much lower in people aged 60 years and over. In addition people aged 60 and over are much more likely to become seriously unwell if they catch COVID-19.

### **Are there any serious safety risks associated with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca?**

Both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines have been studied in tens of thousands of people in clinical trials. They are both very effective at preventing severe disease and hospitalisation.

Most side effects of both vaccines are mild and transient. They include reactions at the injection site and some systemic reactions, like headaches, fever, chills and fatigue. These are common in the first 48 hours after vaccination.

TTS is a rare newly described condition that has been reported following administration of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, almost exclusively after the first dose.

There has not been a higher overall rate of relatively common types of blood clots (including deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) reported after COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccination.

### **Why don't people over 60 get to choose the vaccine they want?**

The AstraZeneca vaccine is highly effective at preventing death and severe illness among people who have contracted COVID-19 – and the incidence of TTS is very rare.

ATAGI consider that the individual benefit-to-risk balance of vaccination with COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca in Australia varies with age. The risk of ongoing health issues and death from COVID-19 is highest in older age groups. By comparison, the rate, and thus possibility of disability and death from TTS may be higher in younger people. This age-specific benefit-to-risk balance is demonstrated in [analysis from the UK](#).

The most effective way for eligible people aged 60 years and over to protect themselves from the effects of COVID-19 is to be vaccinated.

### **This latest advice from ATAGI means demand for the Pfizer vaccine is going to rise considerably. Do we have to source additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine and are you confident supply can keep up with demand?**

Australia has secured enough supply of Pfizer vaccines to act on the new advice from ATAGI.

Effective immediately, the 21 Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics currently providing the Pfizer vaccines will open eligibility to people aged 50-59 years. From 5 July, 1,300 general practices and additional Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics will progressively begin delivering Pfizer vaccinations.

This expansion in Pfizer sites was planned to coincide with our highest expected arrival of Pfizer doses so far. During July we expect to receive 2.8 million doses and we will see significant increases in the availability of Pfizer and our first arrivals of Moderna from September/October.

This means all Australians will still be able to receive a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine by the end of the year, should they choose to.

### **I am having difficulties making a vaccine appointment – what should I do?**

Use the online [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Checker](#) to find a vaccination clinic and book an appointment.

If an appointment is not available right away, new clinics and appointments are being added regularly, so you can wait a few days and check again.

### **Who is ATAGI?**

ATAGI is an independent group of medical experts who gives advice to the Minister for Health on all matters regarding immunisation, particularly who will be prioritised first to receive a COVID-19 Vaccines.

### **Which general practices are moving to administering Pfizer first?**

The Australian Government asked general practices already participating in the COVID-19 vaccine program who would be interested in administering the Pfizer vaccine. While it is anticipated all participating general practices will be able to administer Pfizer later in the year, 1,300 initial general practices will be invited to start earlier, in July.

Primary Health Networks and State and Territory Governments were asked to prioritise practices for a July start based on geographic need. This included considering current vaccination rates in each area, the State/Territory's current and planned rollout of Pfizer, and the location of Commonwealth Vaccination Clinics, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

- [Information to help patients make informed decisions from the Department of Health.](#)
- [Statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation.](#)
- [Statement from Australian Government Chief Medical Officer.](#)

### **ELIGIBILITY**

[Eligibility criteria](#) apply for vaccination under phase 1B. You can check your eligibility with the Department of Health's [vaccine eligibility checker](#).

You will need to provide proof of eligibility to our administration staff upon arrival for your vaccination.

Eligibility criteria, and required forms of proof (click on the criteria that applies to you):

### **People over 50 years of age**

- All standard forms of identification (drivers licence, passport) will be accepted.
- For individuals attending their usual GP, the clinic's records may be relied upon as evidence.
- Other forms of accepted evidence include:
  - My Health Record
  - Government issued documents with date of birth (e.g. Centrelink, Medicare, Department of Veterans Affairs)

### **Health care workers**

- Proof of occupation (ID card, letter from employer)
- [Phase 1B Declaration Form](#)

### **Carers and disability workers**

- Carers documentation or proof of occupation (ID card or letter from employer/ centre-based support provider)
- [Phase 1B Declaration Form](#)

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults over 55 years**

- Self-identification as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Person

### **Younger people with an underlying medical condition, including people with a disability**

- For individuals attending their usual GP, the clinic's records may be relied upon as evidence
- MyHealth Record
- A referral from GP or treating specialist
- Alternative medical records, including:
  - a print out of your medical history as recorded in your clinical records;
  - a print out of your chronic disease careplan
  - a discharge summary from a hospital or other medical facility
  - a valid script or medication prescribed to treat one or more of the relevant medical conditions
- [Phase 1B Declaration Form](#)

### **Critical and high risk workers**

- Proof of occupation (ID card, letter from employer)
- [Phase 1B Declaration Form](#)

## MEDICARE DETAILS

Make sure your [Medicare details](#) are up to date. You can do this via:

- Your Medicare online account.
- Your myGov account.
- The Express Plus Medicare app.
- Calling the Medicare program.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

You should not receive COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca if you have had anaphylaxis (a type of severe allergic reaction) to a previous dose of the vaccine, or to any component of the vaccine, including polysorbate 80.

Consumer Medicine Information on COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca is available from the Therapeutic Goods Association.

## PRECAUTIONS

Discuss your circumstances with your usual GP prior to vaccination if:

- You have had a possible allergic reaction to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or to an ingredient of the vaccine.
- You have ever had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after other vaccinations or to other medicines – your GP can check to ensure there are no common ingredients with the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
- You have a mast cell activation disorder.
- You have had a cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (a type of blood clot in the brain) or heparin-induced thrombocytopenia syndrome (a reaction to heparin treatment).
- You have a problem with bleeding or bruising, or if you are taking a blood thinning medicine (anticoagulant) – your GP can help determine whether it is safe for you to have an intramuscular injection, and help to decide the best timing for injection.
- You have had, or are planning to have, any other vaccine, including any other COVID-19 vaccine – you cannot have another vaccine within 7 days of having COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.

## SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

### Children

COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca has only been provisionally approved for use in people aged 18 years or older, and cannot be given to younger people. The risk of COVID-19, especially severe disease, in children is lower than in older adolescents and adults.

### Adults Under 60 Years

There is a link between COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and an extremely rare blood clotting syndrome, thrombosis with thrombocytopenia (TTS).

The recommendation from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is that use of Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer) is preferred over AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in adults under 60 years old who have not already had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine. This is due to a potentially higher risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia in people aged under 60 who receive the AstraZeneca vaccine.

The COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca can be used in adults aged under 60 years where the benefits outweigh the risk for that individual, and the person has made an informed decision, considering the benefits and risks. People who have had the first dose of AstraZeneca without any serious adverse effects, can be given the second dose. This includes people aged under 60.

It is important to note that the AstraZeneca vaccine is highly effective at preventing death and severe illness in people who have acquired COVID-19.

If you are under 60, and considering being vaccinated with COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, your usual GP can help you to assess the benefits and risks of vaccination.

### **Pregnancy & Breastfeeding**

Pregnant women are not routinely recommended to have COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, but can consider vaccination:

- If they are at higher risk of getting COVID-19, for example, due to their occupation.
- If they have risk factors for severe illness, for example, due to pre-existing medical conditions.

If you are pregnant, your usual GP can help you to assess the benefits and risks of vaccination.

If you are breastfeeding, you can have COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca. You do not need to stop breastfeeding after vaccination.

A Department of Health COVID-19 vaccination decision guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy is available [here](#).

### **Immunocompromise**

Immunocompromised people include those who have a medical condition that weakens their immune system and those who may be taking medications that suppress their immune system.

It is strongly recommended that immunocompromised people receive COVID-19 vaccination due to their increased risk of severe illness with COVID-19. COVID-19 Vaccine

AstraZeneca does not behave like a 'live vaccine'. The adenovirus carrier has been modified so that it cannot replicate or spread to other cells, and it cannot cause infection. It is safe in people with immunocompromise. However, the immune response to vaccination may be reduced, which may result in lower vaccine effectiveness and protection compared with that in non-immunocompromised individuals. This emphasises the importance for immunocompromised people to continue other preventative measures after vaccination.

### **People With A History Of Covid-19**

A history of COVID-19, may reduce the risk of reinfection for at least 6 months from the time of infection. If you have had COVID-19 in the past, discuss this with your usual GP prior to immunisation. You may be advised to wait for up to six months after recovery before being vaccinated.

### **TIMEFRAME BETWEEN RECEIVING OTHER VACCINES**

The recommended minimum timeframe between receiving a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine is 7 days. Although immune interference between a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines is unlikely, there are currently no data on co-administration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines.

### **VACCINATION PROCESS**

Vaccination involves two doses of the COVID-19 AstraZeneca Vaccine. Doses are delivered via injection, most commonly in your upper arm. There should be approximately 12 weeks between the two doses. Optimal protection against COVID-19 will not occur until about one to two weeks after your second dose.

### **ADVERSE EVENTS**

Adverse events are extremely rare and include anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) and fainting.

A vast majority of adverse events occur within 30 minutes after vaccination. For this reason, you will need to remain in our clinic for observation for up to 30 minutes after each dose of the vaccine, in case of an adverse event, and to receive rapid medical care if needed. If you experience severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat, or collapsing, after you have left our clinic, call 000.

Furthermore, there is a link between the AstraZeneca vaccine and an extremely rare blood clotting syndrome (thrombosis with thrombocytopenia) in the brain or abdomen. This is being investigated, with the results expected soon. If you develop a severe or persistent headache, blurred vision, shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling, persistent abdominal pain unusual skin bruising and/or pinpoint round spots beyond the site of injection, in 4 to 20 days after vaccination, seek immediate medical attention. Be sure to

tell your treating doctor that you have recently received the vaccine. If a clotting disorder is confirmed, urgent hospital care is required.

## **SIDE EFFECTS**

Common side effects of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca include tenderness at the injection site, headache, tiredness, muscle ache, feeling unwell, chills, nausea, and fever. Most side effects start within 24 hours of vaccination and resolve within a few days without intervention. Paracetamol or ibuprofen can be taken to reduce discomfort. Seek medical care if side effects last for more than a few days.

Some of the expected side effects overlap with the symptoms of COVID-19, however, respiratory symptoms, such as cough and runny nose, are not known to be associated with the vaccine. If you develop respiratory symptoms after vaccination, self-isolate, and arrange a COVID-19 test.

## **SAFETY**

The safety of COVID-19 vaccines will be continuously monitored throughout the COVID-19 vaccination program. Suspected side effects can be reported to your vaccination provider or usual GP. They will then make a formal report on your behalf to your state or territory health department or directly to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). If you would prefer to report it yourself, please visit the TGA website for information on how to report suspected side effects associated with COVID-19 vaccines. You may be contacted in the week after vaccination via SMS for a brief survey.

## **PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

No vaccine is 100 per cent effective, so it is possible that you can still get sick from COVID-19 after vaccination. Moreover, it is not yet known how long the immunity will last or whether it prevents transmission in asymptomatic vaccinated people with COVID-19. For these reasons, it is important to continue other preventive measures, including:

- Social distancing – stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water, or use hand sanitiser.
- Wearing a mask, if your state or territory has advised that you should.
- Staying at home if you are unwell with cold or flu-like symptoms and arranging a COVID-19 test.

## **CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING CANCELLATION**

You will need to cancel your vaccination if:

- Are unwell, have a fever, cough, runny nose or other symptoms that could be from COVID-19.
- Are awaiting COVID-19 test results.

- Have tested positive with COVID-19 and you are in isolation.
- Are in quarantine.
- Are a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

Upon arrival for your appointment, our administrative staff will ask if you are feeling unwell, have a fever, cough, or runny nose, and take your temperature. If you have any of these symptoms, appear unwell, or have a high temperature (over 38.5°C), we will cancel your appointment, and advise you to self-isolate and schedule a COVID-19 test.

## WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT

You will need to bring:

- Identification.
- Medicare card.
- Proof of my eligibility.
- Completed consent form.

Please wear a face mask and clothing that allows access to your upper arm.

## VACCINATION RECORD

Vaccination providers record all vaccinations on the Australian Immunisation Register, as required by Australian law. Once you've had your vaccine, you'll be able to get an immunisation history statement to prove your vaccination status. You can view your vaccination record online through your:

- [Medicare online account](#).
- [MyGov account](#).
- [MyHealthRecord account](#).