



# Third dose now also available for people aged 16-17

## COVID-19 vaccine third dose fact sheet

A vaccine third dose (booster) is the most important thing to do for Victoria to remain open and to support community, business and schools to continue operating in a COVID-safe way.

### Information about third doses

COVID-19 third-dose vaccinations are now available to 16-17 year olds who had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine **3 or more months ago**.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has approved the Pfizer vaccine for use as a third dose in people aged 16 to 17 years old. For details, [read ATAGI's statement](#).

This follows the [Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\) announcement](#) to provisionally approve the Pfizer vaccine for use as a third dose for people in this age group.

### Third doses are important

A COVID-19 third dose helps prevent waning immunity (loss of protection) against COVID-19. Third doses are important to give you maximum protection against COVID-19 and to help reduce the spread of the virus. A COVID-19 third dose helps prevent waning immunity (loss of protection) against COVID-19.

International evidence suggests that this protection against COVID-19 gradually decreases over time, particularly from 4 months onwards.

### Third dose vaccines

People aged 16-17 years will receive the Pfizer vaccine as their third dose. You can get Pfizer as a third dose regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine you received for your first two doses.

If you are eligible for your third dose and have had COVID-19 recently, you should get your third dose as soon as your symptoms subside, and you have completed your 7 days of home isolation.

Adolescents eligible for a third dose who have previously developed myocarditis or pericarditis after a primary dose of mRNA vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna) should discuss the benefits and risks of a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose with their cardiologist and/or treating doctor. See [ATAGI advice](#) on myocarditis and pericarditis after mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Adolescents aged 16 to 17 years who are severely immunocompromised and have received a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine (refer to [ATAGI advice](#)) should also receive a booster dose (4th dose) of the Pfizer vaccine when they become eligible from 3 months after receiving their third primary dose.

## Where to get a third dose

You can book a third dose at a Victorian vaccination centre by:

- [using the online booking system](#), or
- calling the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and people with a disability aged 16-17 years are able to walk up without a booking and receive a vaccine from any state vaccination centre.

For a list of Victorian vaccination centres and pop-up clinics, see the [Vaccination centres page on the Victorian Government's Coronavirus website](#).

You can also book an appointment at doctor's clinic or pharmacy using the [Australian Government's Vaccine Clinic Finder](#).

## Vaccine information for people with a disability or special requirements

We encourage people with disabilities or special requirements to use a vaccination centre with enhanced accessibility (see below) or a drive-through vaccination centre. [View all vaccination centres, including drive-through options](#).

The Australian Government also provides a number of smaller Vaccination Hubs exclusively for people with a disability and disability workers in Victoria. For details, including how to book, visit the [Australian Governments Health website](#)

## After your third dose

You might have side effects. Side effects are normal, usually mild, and go after a day or two. You might not have any side effects at all, but if you do, they include:

- pain where you had the needle
- tiredness
- muscle aches
- fever or chills
- joint pain.

Serious side effects are very rare. Contact your doctor if you are worried, or if any side effects have not gone away after a few days. Call 000 if you have a serious reaction such as trouble breathing, chest pain, a fast heartbeat, a seizure (fit) or if you collapse.

## Stay COVIDSafe, even after your third dose

Even after a third dose, you still need to be COVIDSafe.

To stay COVIDSafe:

- wash your hands with soap and water often, or use hand sanitiser when you cannot wash your hands
- keep 1.5 metres distance from other people (physically distance)
- wear a face mask inside or when you cannot physically distance
- cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

Get tested for COVID-19 if you:

- feel even a little unwell
- have been to an exposure site
- have been in close contact with someone who might have COVID-19.

Do not go to a vaccine appointment if you feel unwell or think you may have COVID-19.

## More information

You can find more information on the [Victorian Government's Coronavirus website](#).

## Translated resources

The Australian Government has a factsheet translated into various languages, which answers common questions about third doses. You can find the factsheet on the [Australian Government Health website](#).

To receive this document in another format, phone 1300 651 160, using the National Relay Service 13 36 77 if required, or email [COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au](mailto:COVIDvaccination@dhhs.vic.gov.au).

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