



Australian Government

COVID-19
✓ **VACCINATION**

COVID-19 vaccine



The Delta strain of COVID-19

Easy read version



The Australian Government wrote this document.
When you see the word 'we', it means the
Australian Government.



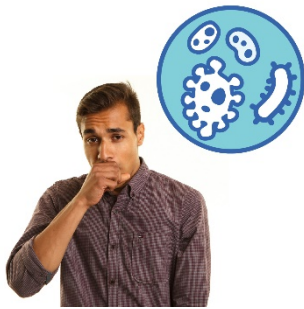
We wrote this information in an easy to read way.
We use pictures to explain some ideas.



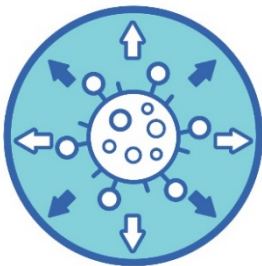
You can ask for help to read
this document. A friend, family
member or support person may
be able to help you.



What is this fact sheet about?



A **virus** is an illness or disease that can spread easily from one person to another person.



Sometimes a virus can change so it spreads much faster than usual.



This has happened with coronavirus (COVID-19). We now have the **Delta strain**.



The Delta strain spreads very easily.



It's really important to get the COVID-19 **vaccine**.

A vaccine is a type of medicine that:



- helps people fight a virus if they come into contact with it
- can stop people from getting very sick from the virus.



The COVID-19 vaccine is a safe way to protect:

- you
- your family
- the community.



We have 2 COVID-19 vaccines:

- the AstraZeneca vaccine
- the Pfizer vaccine.



There is a team of medical experts called the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI).

ATAGI have updated their advice for:



- who can get the AstraZeneca vaccine



- when you can get your second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine.



We explain what advice ATAGI updated on the following pages.



You can find more information about the COVID-19 vaccine on the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources

If you have already had one AstraZeneca dose



You might have had 1 dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine already.



But you need 2 doses for it to work in the right way.



At the moment, you should wait 12 weeks between your first dose and your second dose.



But the Delta strain spreads very fast.



So ATAGI said if you live in an area where a lot of people have COVID-19, you should get your second dose as soon as you can.



If you had your first dose at least 4 weeks ago, you should go and get your second dose.



You should do this as soon as you can.



If you had your first dose less than 4 weeks ago, you should make an appointment for your second dose.



You should get your second dose 4 weeks after your first dose.

If you haven't had a COVID-19 vaccine yet



We want to give everyone in Australia a chance to have a COVID-19 vaccination.



But we can't give everyone the vaccination at the same time.



We want as many people as possible to have the vaccination in 2021.



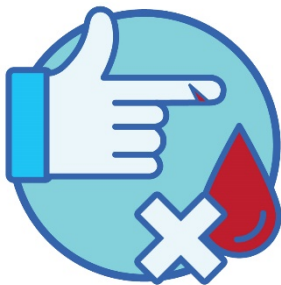
You can find out who can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the moment on the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au/who-will-get-the-vaccine-easy-read



Before the Delta strain, ATAGI said some people should not get the AstraZeneca vaccine.



A very small number of people have had blood clots that are not safe after getting the AstraZeneca vaccine.



There are safe blood clots, like when you get a small cut and it stops bleeding.



But there are also blood clots that are not safe.



This is very rare, but it can make people very sick.



You can ask your doctor if you might be at risk of getting serious blood clots.



ATAGI says the AstraZeneca vaccine is still safe.



The AstraZeneca vaccine still does a good job of teaching your body how to fight COVID-19.

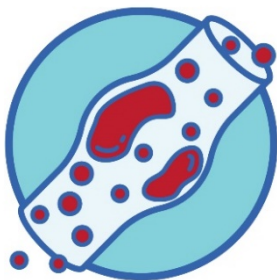


But ATAGI made some rules.



Before the Delta strain, ATAGI said only people aged 60 years or older should get the AstraZeneca vaccine.

This is because people aged 60 years or older have a:



- lower chance of getting a serious blood clot



- higher chance of getting very sick from COVID-19.

If you are aged 60 years or older



The Delta strain spreads very fast.



ATAGI said people aged 60 years or older have a very high chance of:

- catching the Delta strain of COVID-19
- getting very sick from it.

They said you should get an AstraZeneca vaccine if you:



- are aged 60 years or older



- live in an area where a lot of people have COVID-19.



They want to make sure people are safe from COVID-19.

If you are aged under 60 years



Before the Delta strain, ATAGI said people aged under 60 years should get a different vaccine.



But the Delta strain spreads very fast.



And a COVID-19 vaccine can stop you from getting very sick from COVID-19.



At the moment we have:

- a lot of AstraZeneca vaccines
- not many Pfizer vaccines.

So ATAGI said you can choose to get the AstraZeneca vaccine if you:

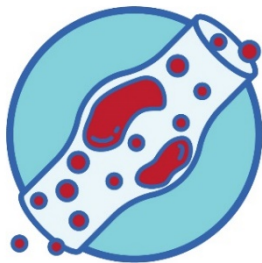


- are aged under 60 years



- live in an area where a lot of people have COVID-19.

Before you decide, you should think about the risk of getting:



- serious blood clots



- very sick from COVID-19.



You should also talk to your doctor about the risks.

More information



You can call the Disability Gateway on **1800 643 787**.

They are open from 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday.



You can visit the Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au for more information about the vaccine.



You can call the National Coronavirus and COVID-19 Vaccine Helpline on **1800 020 080**.



If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.



The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document using stock photography and custom images. The images may not be reused without permission. For any enquiries about the images, please visit www.informationaccessgroup.com. Quote job number 4247-A.

We will continue to update this Easy Read document with new information when it is available. Last updated July 2021.