



Should I have the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine?

A COVID-19 vaccine was developed by AstraZeneca™ and Oxford University. It is approved for use in Australia. This leaflet answers some questions about the AstraZeneca vaccine. It is meant for use during a visit with your health professional. It is based on the latest research and will be updated as necessary. There is more detailed information at www.health.gov.au

What is involved in getting the AstraZeneca vaccine?

Getting the AstraZeneca vaccine involves having an injection in your arm two times, about 12 weeks apart. The person giving the vaccine must record it on the Australian Immunisation Register. You can access your immunisation record through Medicare, myGov, or your GP.

What are your options?

You can't usually choose which COVID-19 vaccine you are offered. If you are offered the AstraZeneca vaccine, you can choose to **have it or not have it**. It is safe to have the vaccine if you have had COVID-19 and it may make you less likely to get it again.

Who should not have the AstraZeneca vaccine?

You should NOT have the AstraZeneca vaccine if you:

- are currently unwell, especially if you have a fever,
- are under 18 years (this may change once there is more research),
- have had another vaccine (for example, the flu shot) in the past two weeks,
- have had allergen immunotherapy or venom immunotherapy injections in the past 48 hours,
- have a history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia syndrome (HITS), or
- have a history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)

If you are under 50 years, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is preferred. If the Pfizer vaccine is not available, you may wish to talk with your doctor about whether to have the AstraZeneca vaccine.

About this leaflet

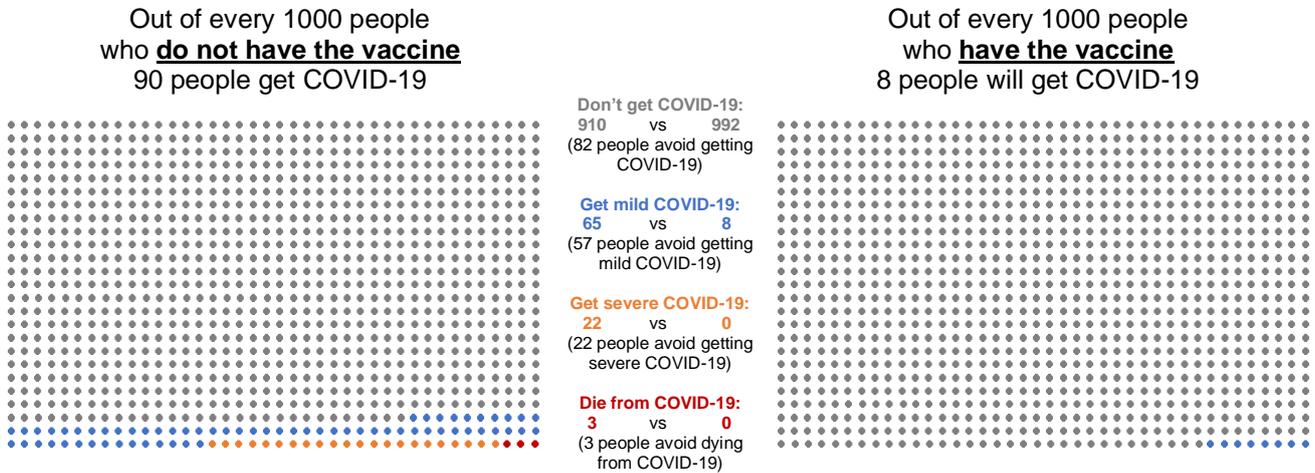
This leaflet was prepared by Professor Lyndal Trevena from the 'Ask Share Know' (ASK) NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence.

It is based on the following research paper: Voysey M et al. Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK. *The Lancet* 2021; 397:99-111

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What are the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine?

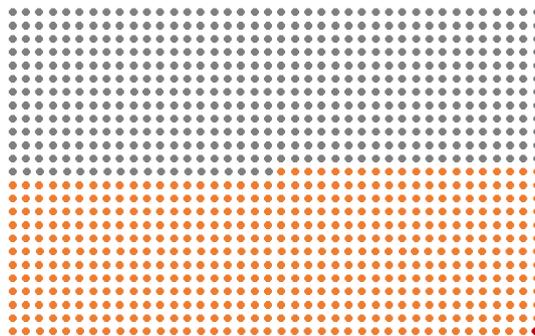
The benefits of vaccines depend on how much COVID-19 there is in Australia. We can never be sure about the size of future COVID-19 outbreaks. The numbers below give an idea of the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine when there is a large outbreak (similar to the USA in 2020).



What are the side effects of the AstraZeneca vaccine?

The numbers below give an idea of the side effects of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Out of every 1000 people who **have the vaccine**
around 500 people will have side effects



Have no side effects:
500 people

Have mild side effects
(For example, pain where the injection
was given, headache, muscle aches,
tiredness, fever. These usually last
less than 72 hours and paracetamol
may help):
Around 500 people

Have severe side effects
(For example, an allergic reaction,
blood clots with low platelets):
Less than 1 person

What is most important to you?

To help you decide, you can tick the boxes you think are important and/or add your own reasons.

For getting the vaccine:

- Avoiding getting COVID-19 myself
- Helping others to avoid getting COVID-19
- Helping to reduce the need for restrictions
(for example, border closures, lockdowns, masks)
- Other reasons:

Against getting the vaccine:

- Avoiding vaccine side effects
- Other reasons: