



## Should I have the AstraZeneca COVID-19 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](http://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. In an outbreak, you may choose to get your second dose early after 6 weeks. 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?

There are limited supplies of some vaccines. You may not be able to choose which COVID-19 vaccine you can receive at this time. If you are offered the AstraZeneca vaccine now, 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 60 years, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is preferred. If the Pfizer vaccine is not available right now, you may wish to talk with your doctor about having the AstraZeneca vaccine. The following summary is designed to help you with this.

#### About this leaflet

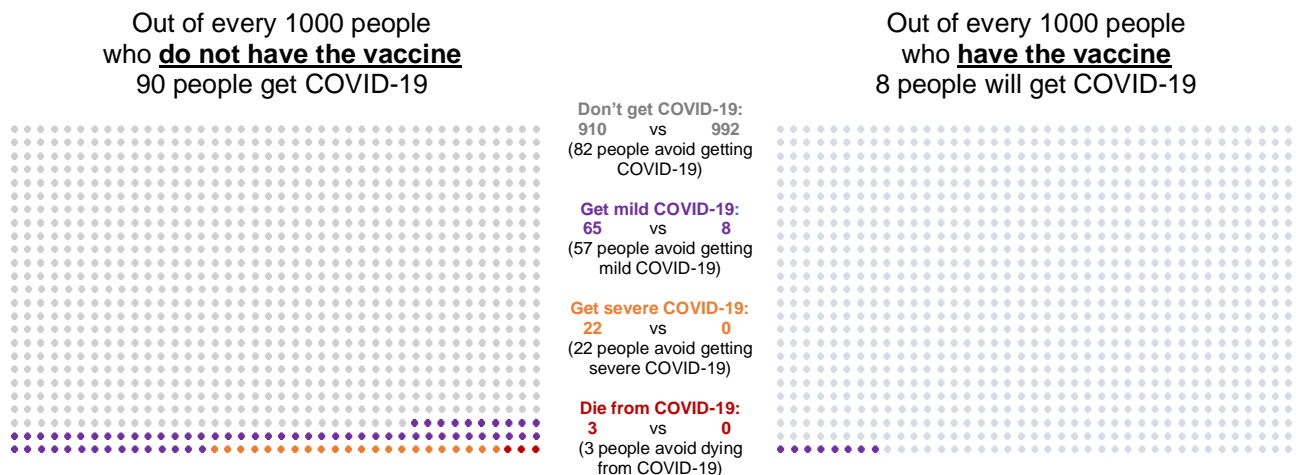
This leaflet was prepared by Professor Lyndal Trevena from the 'Ask Share Know' (ASK) NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence.

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

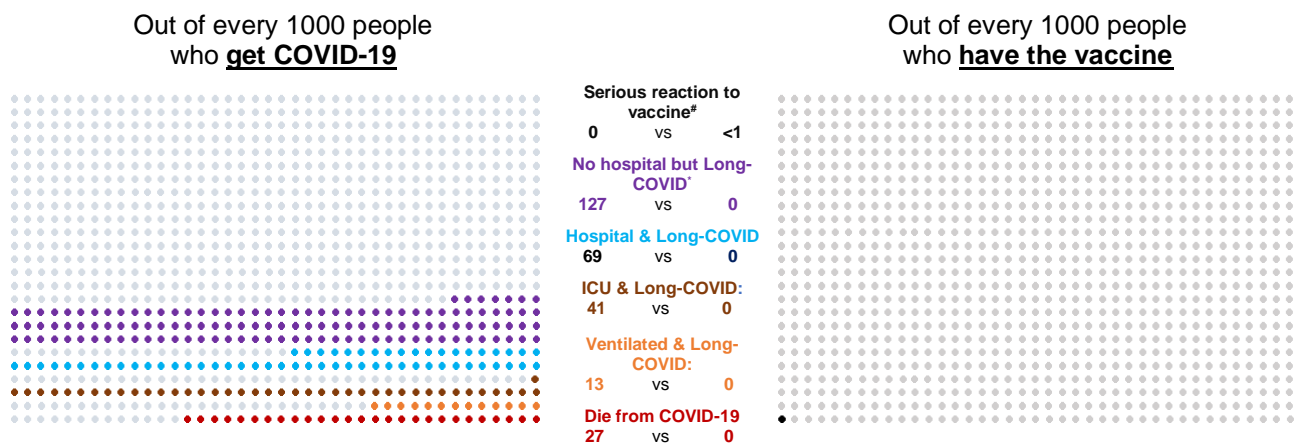
Version: 30 July 2021

## 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 serious harms of getting COVID-19 or getting the AstraZeneca vaccine?



\* Long-COVID is when people have symptoms that last for months or years after COVID-19. We are still learning more about this.

# TTS is a blood clotting problem linked to the AZ vaccine and occurs in 0.02 out of 1,000 people who get the AZ vaccine. About 0.0006 out of 1000 vaccinated people will die from TTS.

## 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)

### Against getting the vaccine:

- Avoiding vaccine side effects
- Other reasons: