



## ADELAIDE CENTRAL VACCINATION CLINIC

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### About The Pfizer Vaccine

Today you have received the **COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer**.

The Pfizer vaccine **does not** contain the live COVID-19 virus, and it **cannot** give you COVID-19. It contains the genetic code for an important protein in the COVID-19 virus. Once you have received the vaccination, your body makes copies of the protein which your immune system learns to recognise and fight. The genetic code is then broken down quickly by the body.

We currently do not know how effective COVID-19 vaccines are at preventing spread of the virus. This means that COVID-19 could potentially still infect a vaccinated person. Even if they have no symptoms or only mild symptoms they could still pass it on to others. This is why it is important to continue other preventative measures like:



### Benefits Of The Vaccine

A large clinical trial has shown that people who received two doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination were 95% less likely to get symptomatic COVID-19 than people who did not get the vaccine.

Protection against COVID-19 starts from about 2–3 weeks after the first dose. While one dose may give some protection, it may only last for the short-term. Two doses will give optimal protection.

For the general population, the benefits of receiving the vaccine far outweigh the risks.

## Risks Of Receiving The Vaccine

No vaccine is 100 percent effective, so it is possible that you can still get sick from COVID-19 after vaccination.

Medical experts have studied COVID-19 vaccines to make sure they are safe. The safety of COVID-19 vaccines will be monitored continuously throughout the COVID-19 vaccination program. Most side effects are mild. They may start on the day of vaccination and last for around 1-2 days. As with any vaccine or medicine, there may be rare and/or unknown side effects. A very rare side effect of heart inflammation (myocarditis) or inflammation of the lining of the heart (pericarditis) has been reported following vaccination with the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine.

You can report suspected side effects to your vaccination provider or other healthcare professional.

Call 000 if you experience severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.

## COVID-19 Testing After Vaccination

Some side effects from COVID-19 vaccination might be similar to symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever). However, you may not need to get a COVID-19 test if you develop general symptoms, such as fever, headache or tiredness in the first two days after vaccination.

You may be required to have a COVID-19 test if you develop respiratory symptoms, such as runny nose, cough, sore throat.

If you are unsure, contact the Adelaide Central Respiratory Clinic on (08) 8490 6971.

## Don't Forget...

Remember your second appointment. It is important that you receive two doses of COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer, about 3 weeks apart.

The second dose is likely to prolong the duration of protection against COVID-19.

## Potential Side Effects

As with any vaccine, you may have some side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

| Common  | Less Common   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Pain or swelling at the injection site</li><li>◆ Tiredness</li><li>◆ Headache</li><li>◆ Muscle pain</li><li>◆ Fever and chills</li><li>◆ Joint pain</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Redness or itching at the injection site</li><li>◆ Nausea</li><li>◆ Enlarged lymph Nodes</li><li>◆ Feeling unwell</li><li>◆ Pain in limb</li><li>◆ Insomnia</li></ul> |

These side effects are usually mild and usually go away within one or two days. Some recipients will experience more significant flu-like symptoms from this vaccination compared to other common vaccinations and may require time away from normal activities. These symptoms may occur after either dose but are more common after the second dose.

## Rare

- ◆ Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- ◆ Myocarditis - Inflammation of the middle layer of the heart wall
- ◆ Pericarditis - A swelling and irritation of the thin, sac-like membrane surrounding the heart

You can report suspected side effects to your vaccination provider or other healthcare professional. 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).

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For more information visit  
[www.pandemicvaccine.com.au](http://www.pandemicvaccine.com.au)  
or scan the QR code.

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Located on the corner of  
Glen Osmond & Fullarton Roads



Source: Australian Government, [health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines](http://health.gov.au/covid19-vaccines)  
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