

PRE-VACCINATION INFORMATION: PFIZER VACCINE (Comirnaty)

<p>Benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects us from severe illness, hospitalisation, death • 95% efficacy after 2 doses / 52.4% after 1 dose • Can still catch Covid-19 but symptoms are not severe * • Can still carry & transmit Covid-19 to others * <p><i>*Therefore ongoing personal & group hygiene measures must continue despite vaccination until we achieve herd immunity.</i></p>
<p>Vaccine</p>	<p>mRNA Vaccine: Synthetic messenger RNA (new technology)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mRNA is taken up by our cells instructing them to produce copies of the Covid spike protein (not the virus) • Our immune system learns to recognise and fight the Covid virus • It does not contain Covid-19 virus & cannot give you Covid-19 (not a “live vaccine”) • It must be stored at ultra-cold temperatures <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intramuscular injection into upper arm (deltoid) • 2 doses, 3 – 6 weeks apart, same brand • Monitor for 15 mins post-vaccination • Cost: free
<p>Who?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved for all people aged 12 and over • Preferably not within 7 days of another vaccination • Not with a severe febrile illness / acute infection • People who have had Covid-19 (after 6 mths)
<p>Side Effects</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common, mild, temporary: injection site, tiredness, headache, fever, chills, myalgias * • Not respiratory symptoms > <i>so should have Covid test</i> <i>*Use Paracetamol or Ibuprofen</i>
<p>Adverse reactions: <i>All very rare</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myocarditis / Pericarditis = inflammation of the heart: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Within 1 – 5 days after vaccination - Chest pain, palpitations, shortness of breath, fainting • Bell’s Palsy • Anaphylaxis: same risk as for any other vaccine
<p>Contraindications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaphylaxis to this vaccine or it’s components ie) Polyethylene Glycol (PEG) • Myocarditis / pericarditis due to a previous dose of the vaccine • Any other severe reaction due to the vaccine
<p>Precautions *</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergic (non-anaphylactic) reaction to this vaccine or it’s components (PEG) • Past history of anaphylaxis to other vaccines, medications, foods • History of Systemic Mastocytosis; other significant allergies <p><i>*Wait 30 mins after vaccination instead of 15 mins +/- consult specialist allergist</i></p> <hr/> <p><u>Heart disease:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of inflammatory heart disease (myocarditis, pericarditis, endocarditis) in past 6 months • Dilated cardiomyopathy (if under 30 yrs age) • Congenital heart disease • Severe heart failure • Heart transplant recipients • Acute rheumatic fever <i>*Consult with cardiologist re timing</i> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunocompromised ie) HIV, cancer, immunosuppressive drugs <i>*Consult with oncologist re timing</i>
<p>Pfizer preferred over AZ</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with a history of rare causes of blood clots ie) contraindications to AZ vaccine • Pregnant, breast feeding • Aged 12 – 59 <p>Note: people aged 18 – 59, during a Covid outbreak, should have whatever vaccine is available to them if safe ie) benefits > risks.</p>
<p>Recording</p>	<p>Australian Immunisation Register: can access via Medicare / myGov account.</p>