

COVID-19 vaccine update from SA Health

Important: This information is current as of Wednesday 9 June 2021

Vaccine rollout

- The South Australian vaccination rollout plan has been updated based on the [changes to the Australian COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy](#).
- The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be given to people under 50 years of age. The AstraZeneca vaccine will be given to people aged 50 years of age and over.
- From Tuesday 8 June, the following groups are now eligible to get vaccinated and can now book [online](#):
 - All South Australians aged 40 and over
 - All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 16 and over
 - People on the NDIS and their associated carers if they are aged 16 and over.
- People 50 years and over can now book an appointment at participating GPs, Respiratory Clinics and at state vaccination clinics. Bookings can be made by visiting covidvaccine.sa.gov.au.
- All people 16 years of age and over living in regional areas can now book an appointment at their local SA Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. Bookings can be made by visiting sahealth.sa.gov.au/regionalclinics.
- To ensure all staff in residential aged care facilities are fully vaccinated as soon as possible in order to protect some of the most vulnerable people within our community, all workers, regardless of age, can now access the Pfizer vaccine by calling the SA COVID-19 Information Line on 1800 253 787 to book an appointment.
- As of Monday 7 June, **5,076,413** doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in Australia and over **2.12 billion** doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been given globally.
- As of Monday 7 June, **355,734** doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been delivered across metropolitan and regional South Australia.

Vaccination in regional SA

- All people 16 years of age and over living in a regional council area can now book to get vaccinated at their local SA Health COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic. People must bring proof of residential address to their appointment (e.g. driver's license or utilities bill).
- Some clinics may only offer appointments for people under 50 (Pfizer) or for people 50 years and over (AstraZeneca).
- More information, including FAQs and a map of regional council areas is available at sahealth.sa.gov.au/regionalclinics.
- The Kangaroo Island community can now get vaccinated, with vaccinations commencing at the Town Hall in Kingscote for all residents 16 years of age and over.
- The clinic will provide both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccinations to around 3,200 adults residing on Kangaroo Island and will be conducted over two date blocks to ensure first and

second doses can be provided within the recommended timeframes. For more information and to book, visit sahealth.sa.gov/au/kicovidvaccine.

Vaccination clinics in metropolitan Adelaide

- New COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics have been established to boost the rollout of the vaccine in South Australia to enable thousands more people to be vaccinated each week.
- All planned metro COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics (Wayville, Noarlunga, Elizabeth and North Adelaide) are now open and accepting bookings from eligible people.
- The Elizabeth COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic has a dedicated vaccination space for Aboriginal people, staffed by Aboriginal Health Workers.
- The Wayville COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic will continue to operate throughout the Royal Adelaide Show period to provide a convenient way for South Australians to access the vaccine
- The new SA Health clinics have been added to the national booking system, accessible through the [SA Health website](#), to make it as easy as possible for South Australians to see all their COVID-19 vaccination options in one place.

Flu vaccinations

- Amidst the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination, South Australians are encouraged not to forget to roll up their sleeve for their annual flu shot.
- ATAGI advice released on Thursday 3 June recommends the minimum interval between COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines (including influenza vaccine) is 7 days, but can be shortened (including same day administration) in special circumstances. Previous advice recommended a minimum interval of 14 days.

Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) in South Australia

- On 19 May, the TGA confirmed a case of Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) following an AstraZeneca vaccination in SA. The confirmed case is a 53-year-old man. SA Health has also been made aware of a probable case in an 87-year-old woman. This case is under review with the TGA.
- On Thursday 3 June, the TGA announced another probable case in 72-year-old man from South Australia.

AstraZeneca vaccine advice

- ATAGI has recently [reinforced their recommendations on use of COVID-19 vaccines](#) following its review of vaccine safety data and benefits.
- Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) is an extremely rare and new syndrome which has been reported after being given the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. It may be caused by this vaccine. The condition involves blood clots (occurring in body sites like the brain or abdomen) together with low platelet levels and typically occurs between 4 and 28 days after vaccination.
- Among case reports, there are no known markers for increased risk for TTS/VITT.
- Almost all cases of TTS reported to date have occurred after the first dose of the vaccine. ATAGI advice is that for people who have had their first dose without any serious side effects, they can proceed with their second dose.
- On Wednesday 2 June, ATAGI released updated risk estimates for TTS. Although estimates of risk based on small numbers of cases are imprecise, the risk of TTS is estimated in Australia at around:
 - 3.1 per 100,000 in those <50 years
 - 1.8 per 100,000 in those ≥50 years.

- The risk of TTS is not likely to be increased in people with the following conditions, and people in these groups can receive COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca:
 - History of blood clots in typical sites
 - Increased clotting tendency that is not immune mediated
 - Family history of blood clots
 - History of ischaemic heart disease or stroke
 - Current or past thrombocytopenia (low platelet count)
 - Those receiving anticoagulation therapy
- The list of conditions for which Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the preferred vaccine include:
 - Past history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)
 - Past history of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)
 - Past history of idiopathic splanchnic (mesenteric, portal, splenic) vein thrombosis
 - Antiphospholipid syndrome with thrombosis
 - People with contraindications to COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca:
 - Anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, or to an ingredient of the vaccine
 - Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia occurring after the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca
 - Other serious adverse events attributed to the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca.
- TTS can be treated effectively. Guidance on the identification and management of TTS is available from the Thrombosis and Haemostasis Society of Australia and New Zealand.
- More information about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is available on the [Australian Department of Health website](#).

Vaccine safety

- Australia's vaccine safety and regulatory process is world class and people can be confident that vaccines approved for use are safe and effective.
- The vaccines will save lives and are an essential part of tackling this global pandemic.
- Australia is taking a phased approach to the vaccination program roll out. Australia is currently utilising two vaccines – the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca vaccines.
- Anyone who has received a COVID vaccine should be aware of the common side effects, which include fever, sore muscles, tiredness and headache. These side effects are expected and are not of concern unless severe or persistent.
- People who have received the AstraZeneca vaccine should also be aware of the symptoms of TTS. Symptoms include severe, persistent headaches that are different to your "usual" pattern and do not settle with paracetamol or other painkillers. People who experience these symptoms within 28 days of their first dose of AstraZeneca should seek medical advice as soon as possible.

Second dose

- Both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines require the full two-dose course for the best immune response.
- Pfizer doses are recommended to be given 3 weeks apart and Astra Zeneca doses are recommended to be given 12 weeks apart. The difference in intervals between the vaccines is due to higher efficacy seen after a longer interval between doses with the Astra Zeneca vaccine. If a delay occurs, it's important to still have the second dose to ensure greater protection.
- The vaccines are not interchangeable, and the two-dose course must be completed with the same vaccine.

- If someone has received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine without experiencing a serious adverse event, they can safely receive their second dose and they are strongly encouraged to do so.

Aged care

- To ensure that aged care workers can be fully vaccinated quickly, SA Health is now making the Pfizer vaccine available to all people working in a Residential Aged Care Facility, regardless of age.
- This includes all staff (nursing and personal care workers, allied health professionals, students on placement, kitchen, cleaning, laundry, garden and maintenance and administration/office staff), agency staff and contractors.
- The Noarlunga, Wayville and Elizabeth clinics will be open late this Thursday 10 June to offer Pfizer vaccinations to all RACF staff. Staff can book an appointment or walk in to receive their Pfizer vaccination on Thursday.
 - Staff aged under 50 can book [online](#).
 - Staff 50 and over can make an appointment by calling the SA COVID-19 Information Line on 1800 253 787.
- Staff can also book in for their COVID-19 Pfizer vaccination at any time.
- The Commonwealth Government continues to vaccinate aged care residents in Commonwealth Government funded residential aged care facilities in South Australia.

Disability

- NDIS participants and their associated carers are now eligible to get vaccinated if they are aged 16 and over.
- Essential carers (paid and unpaid) including carers who are also family members of someone with disability or an elderly person, are also now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.
- People with a disability and essential carers can now get vaccinated against COVID-19 by booking an appointment [online](#).
- To ensure the quick vaccination of disability staff, SA Health is making the Pfizer vaccine available to all disability workers, who are responsible for the care, support and services for people with disability.
- This includes nursing, support and personal care workers, disability workers with regular face to face roles in delivery of services to people with a disability, GPs, allied health and other healthcare professionals and students on placement.
- Staff must be employed, hired, retained or contracted to provide services under the control of a provider through which they provide services to people with disability.
- Disability workers aged 16 to 49 can book [online](#) or workers 50 years and over can book by calling 1800 253 787 (9.00 am to 5.00 pm, 7 days).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged 16 and over can now get vaccinated against COVID-19 and can book [online](#).
- Tailored information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People is available on the [SA Health website](#).

Roll up South Australia

- To encourage South Australians to 'Roll up' when it's their turn to get vaccinated, SA Health has launched an advertising campaign across TV, digital, radio and print.
- Digital billboards at 13 locations across the Adelaide metropolitan area are keeping a running tally of vaccine doses administered in South Australia, letting all South Australians know how many people have already rolled up to protect themselves, their loved ones and the wider community.
- A range of resources including posters, email banner and a brochure is available at www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/RollUpResources.

Safety

- Vaccine recipients may be followed up with an automated text message three days and then eight days after the vaccine. They will be asked if they have had any side effects, and the information will contribute to AusVaxSafety's national COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance. AusVaxSafety is a world-leading national vaccine safety system, led by the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance.

Vaccination certificates

- Australians can already access their immunisation history statement through the Australian Immunisation Register for proof of vaccination, both digitally and in hard copy, if required.
- Statements can be viewed on an individual's Medicare online account or via the Medicare app. Your immunisation history statement will record your COVID-19 vaccinations, following each dose.
- People without a Medicare card can request an Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI) from the Australian Government to get an immunisation summary through My Health Record that will provide proof of vaccination.
- On Friday 4 June, the Commonwealth Government announced that people will be able to access vaccination certificates on their phones from July.

COVID-19 vaccination program and vaccine FAQs

- The SA Health Frequently Asked Questions are frequently updated as new information becomes available. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and the rollout in South Australia visit sahealth.sa.gov.au/covidvaccinefaqs

Play your part in the fight against COVID-19 and roll up

- The COVID-19 vaccine will be an important tool in our fight against COVID-19 and all eligible South Australians will have access to a vaccine in the coming months.
- The vaccine will be one of the most important tools to protect our community, however all need to continue to be COVID Safe:
 - Practise good hygiene
 - Practise physical distancing
 - Stay home and get tested when sick
 - Check in to venues and events using the COVID SAfe Check-In.
- SA Health is your trusted source for information on the South Australian COVID-19 vaccination program. For up to date information visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).
- The National Coronavirus Helpline is the front door for all vaccine enquiries for the community and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1800 020 080.