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COVID-19 vaccine: Third doses

Reproduced from a Victorian Government fact sheet

A vaccine third dose (booster) will help maintain your protection against COVID-19.

This will help to keep you and the community safe.



INFORMATION ABOUT THIRD DOSES

COVID-19 third doses are now available to anyone aged 18 and over who had their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine four or more months ago.

Third doses are important

A COVID-19 third dose helps prevent waning immunity (loss of protection) against COVID-19. Third doses are important to give you maximum protection against COVID-19 and to help reduce the spread of the virus.

Where to get a third dose

You can get a third dose from a Victorian vaccination Centre, your local GP or pharmacist – find one near you using the Vaccine Clinic Finder.

Read more on how to book your vaccine appointment for a third dose, including information on walk-in options. You can walk into any Victorian vaccination centre or pop-up clinic to get a third dose, without needing to book an appointment.

Kinship Care in the time of Coronavirus

For a list of Victorian vaccination centres and pop-up clinics, see the Vaccination centres page on the Victorian Government's Coronavirus website.

Third dose vaccines

Most people will receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as their third dose. You can get either vaccine as a third dose regardless of which COVID-19 vaccine you received for your first two doses.

Some people may receive the AstraZeneca vaccine as their third dose if they cannot have an mRNA vaccine, such as Pfizer or Moderna, for medical reasons.

If you are not sure which third dose vaccine you should have, speak with your doctor.

AFTER YOUR THIRD DOSE

You might have side effects. Side effects are normal, usually mild, and go after a day or two. You might not have any side effects at all, but if you do, they include:

- pain where you had the needle
- tiredness
- muscle aches
- fever or chills
- joint pain.

Serious side effects are very rare. Contact your doctor if you are worried, or if any side effects have not gone away after a few days. Call 000 if you have a serious reaction such as trouble breathing, chest pain, a fast heartbeat, a seizure (fit) or if you collapse.

STAY COVIDSAFE, EVEN AFTER YOUR THIRD DOSE

Even after a third dose, you still need to be COVIDSafe.

To stay COVIDSafe:

- wash your hands with soap and water often, or use hand sanitiser when you cannot wash your hands
- keep 1.5 metres distance from other people (physically distance)
- wear a face mask inside or when you cannot physically distance
- cough and sneeze into a tissue or your elbow.

Get tested for COVID-19 if you:

- feel even a little unwell
- have been to an exposure site
- have been in close contact with someone who might have COVID-19.

Then, stay home until you receive a negative result.

Do not go to a vaccine appointment if you feel unwell or think you may have COVID-19.

Translated resources

The Australian Government has a factsheet translated into various languages, which answers common questions about third doses. You can find the factsheet on the Australian Government Health website.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information on the Victorian Government's Coronavirus website.



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