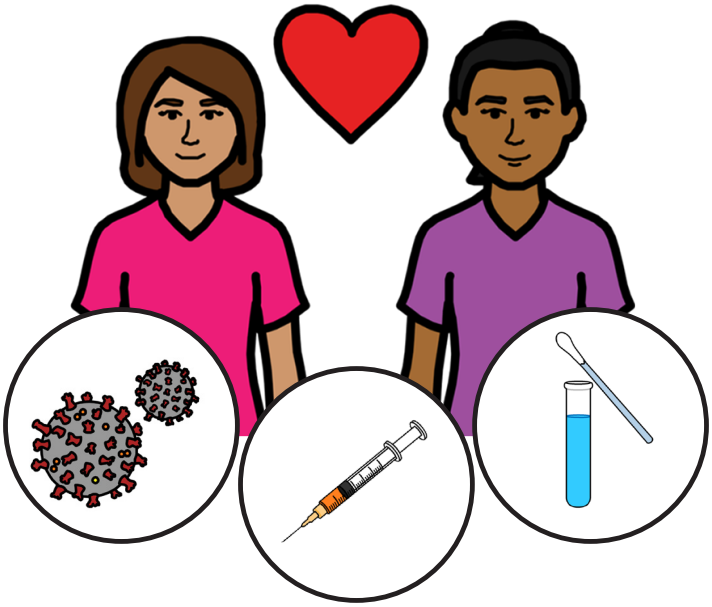
Drummond Street Services



About Coronavirus

Information for multicultural LGBTIQ+ people and people with disability

Drummond Street Services

Easy English

Hard words

This book has some hard words.

The first time we write a hard word

- the word is in **blue**

- we write what the hard word means.

You can get help with this book

You can get someone to help you

- read this book

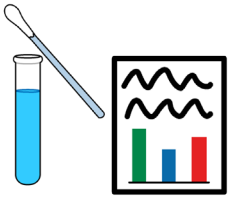
- know what this book is about

- find more information.

About this book

Drummond Street Services

This book is from Drummond Street Services.



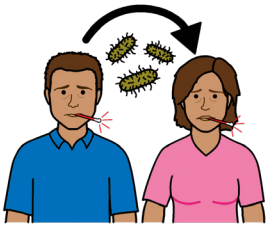
This book is about

- **coronavirus** tests

- the **coronavirus vaccine**.

Coronavirus or COVID-19

- can make people very sick

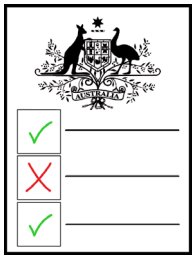


- is spread when you are close to someone else who has coronavirus.

The coronavirus vaccine is a medicine that can help keep you safe from coronavirus.

Things you can do to stay safe from coronavirus

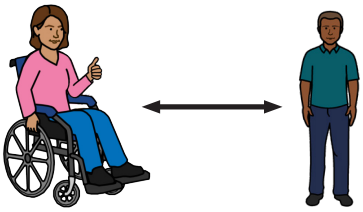
There are lots of things you can do to stay safe from coronavirus.



When you are in the community you **must**

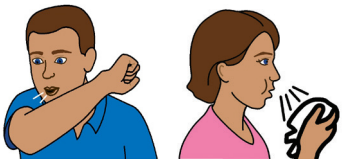
- follow the rules from the government

- wear a clean face mask



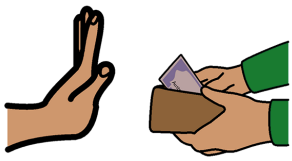
- keep 2 big steps away from other people

- wash your hands often



- cover coughs and sneezes.

About the coronavirus test



The coronavirus test

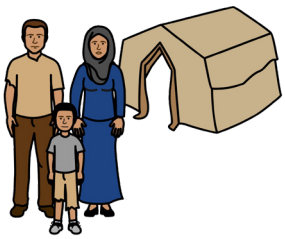
- is free

- is quick to do

- does **not** hurt

- is for everyone staying or living in Australia.

You can get the coronavirus test even if you are

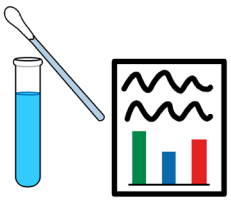


- a refugee or asylum seeker

- a migrant

- here on a visa

- an international student.



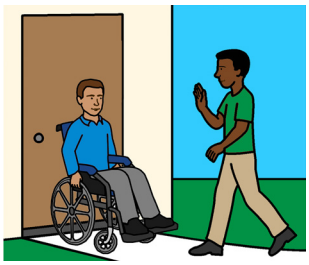
The coronavirus test does **not** test for any other disease or illness.

You need to bring **identification** when you go for a coronavirus test.

Identification means a card or letter that shows who you are.
For example, a passport or licence.

There is a list of places on the website below where LGBTIQ+ people can get extra support when they get tested.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-lgbtiq-communities#testing-locations-with-a-rainbow-tick



If you have a disability you can ask someone to come to your home to give you a coronavirus test.

Call 1800 675 398

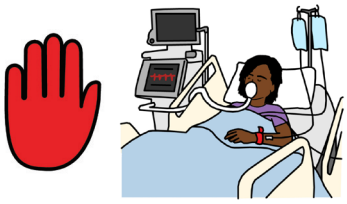
Why you should get the coronavirus vaccine

You can get a vaccine for coronavirus.

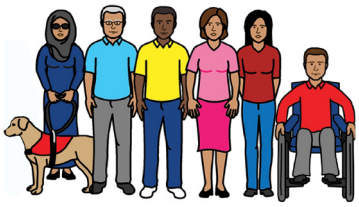
The coronavirus vaccine is medicine that can

- help keep you safe from coronavirus

- help keep others safe from coronavirus



- stop you from getting very sick if you do still get coronavirus.



We need lots of people to get the vaccine so everyone can stay well.

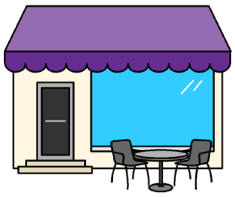
You can get information about the vaccine from your doctor.

Why is the coronavirus vaccine important?

The vaccine can help keep everyone safe.

You might have to have the vaccine to go to

- other countries



- public places like libraries or cafes

- work.

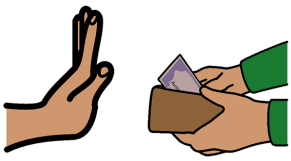
You can look at the list on the website below to see if you need a vaccine to do your job.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-workers-required-be-vaccinated

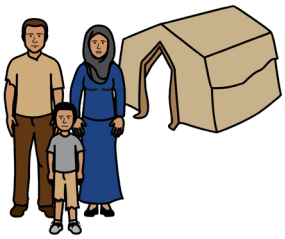
You can look at the list on the website below to see who else needs a vaccine.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/victorias-roadmap

Who can get the coronavirus vaccine?

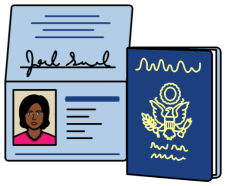


The coronavirus vaccine is free for everyone, including



- refugees
- asylum seekers

- migrants



- people here on a visa

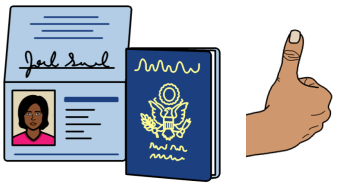
- international students

- people with disability.

When you get a coronavirus vaccine

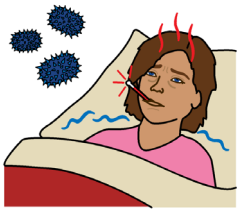
- you do **not** need a Medicare card

- you do **not** need an Individual Healthcare Identifier



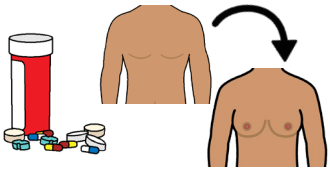
- it will **not** affect your visa status

- it will **not** affect your government payments.

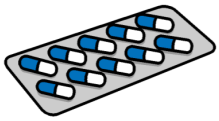


It is safe to get the coronavirus vaccine even if

- you have already had coronavirus

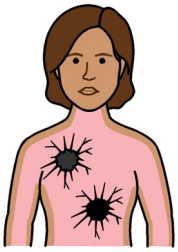


- you are on hormone therapy



- you are taking pre-exposure prophylaxis medicine or PrEP

- you are on antiretrovirals.



You might **not** be able to have the vaccine if you have a health problem.

You **must** tell your doctor about all of your health problems **before** you get the vaccine.

Your doctor will tell you which coronavirus vaccine is best for you.

How to book a coronavirus vaccine appointment

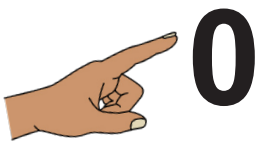
You can book an appointment to get the coronavirus vaccine

- online

or

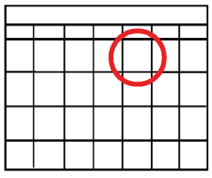
- over the phone.

You can call the Coronavirus Hotline to book an appointment on 1800 675 398.



Press 0 if you need an **interpreter**.

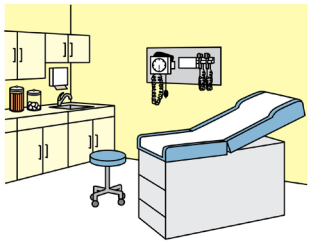
An interpreter is someone who speaks English as well as the same language as you.



You can go to the website below to book an appointment.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/book-your-vaccine-appointment

You can book an appointment at some doctors clinics and pharmacies.

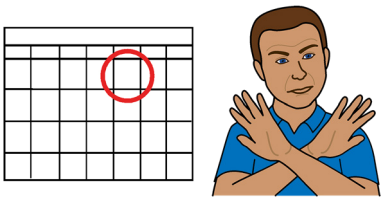


You can look at the list on the website below to see the doctors clinics and pharmacies where you can get an appointment.

covid-vaccine.healthdirect.gov.au/eligibility

You can book a group appointment with friends or family to get the coronavirus vaccine together on the website below.

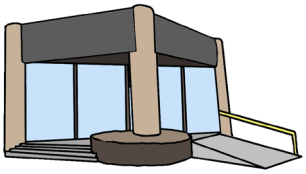
coronavirus.vic.gov.au/group-bookings-service



If you have a disability

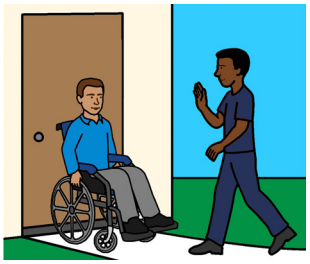
- you do **not** need to book an appointment to get the coronavirus vaccine at a vaccine site

- a **Disability Liaison Officer** can help you get a vaccine.



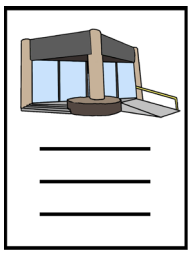
A Disability Liaison Officer can help you

- know where to go for an appointment



- book someone to come to your home to give you the coronavirus vaccine

- help you understand what will happen.



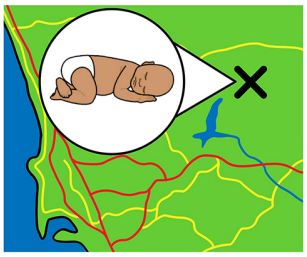
There is a list of accessible vaccine sites on the website below.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability#vaccination-centres-with-enhanced-accessibility

When you book the appointment you will be asked

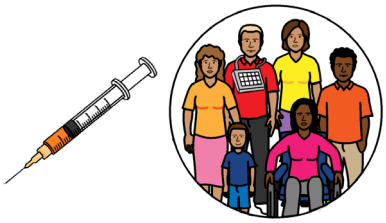
- how old you are

- what your ethnicity is



- where you were born

- what language you speak.



The questions help the government know how to support different communities to get the coronavirus vaccine.

Getting the coronavirus vaccine

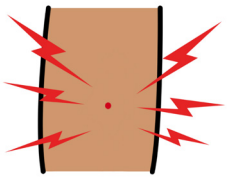
You can bring someone with you for support.

You should wear clothes that make it easy to put the vaccine in your arm.

A nurse or doctor will put a needle into your arm to give you the vaccine.

You can tell the nurse or doctor if you are worried about the needle and they will help you.

The vaccine is very quick.



It might sting a little bit when you get the needle.

After your vaccine you might

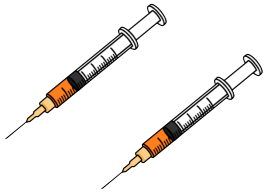
- have a sore arm

- have a mild fever

- feel tired.

If you are worried or feel sick you can see your doctor after your vaccine.

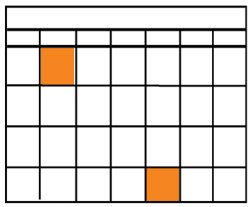
All vaccines in Australia are safe.



For the vaccine to work well you need to have the vaccine

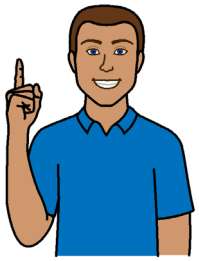
- 2 times

and



- on different days.

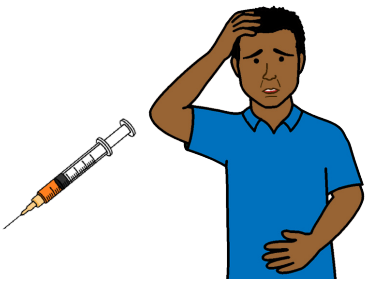
When you have the first vaccine someone will tell you when you can have the vaccine again.



There are social scripts that show you what will happen when you get the vaccine on the website below.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/vaccination-information-people-disability#social-scripts-about-getting-vaccinated

If you feel sick after the coronavirus vaccine



You might have **side effects** from the vaccine.

Side effects are when you feel a little bit sick from the medicine in the vaccine.

Side effects might make you

- feel tired

- have muscle aches

- have headaches

- have joint pain

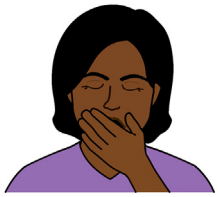
- have fever and chills.

You might have side effects after

- the first vaccine

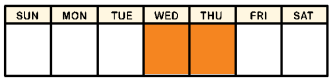
- the second vaccine

- both vaccines.



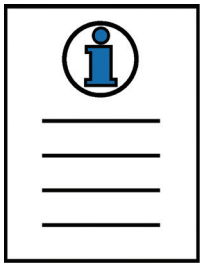
Side effects from the coronavirus vaccine

- are normally mild



- normally last for 1 or 2 days.

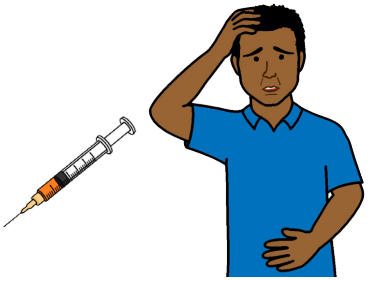
There is a small chance you might have more serious side effects.



You can get information about vaccine side effects from your doctor or the website below.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/about-covid-19-vaccines#when-to-seek-medical-attention-after-a-vaccination

What to do if you feel sick after your coronavirus vaccine



If you feel sick after your coronavirus vaccine you should contact your doctor.

If you can **not** see your doctor you can call

- Nurse on Call on 1300 60 60 24

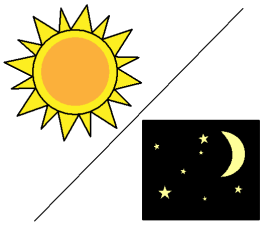
or

- the Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 020 080.

You should call 000 if you

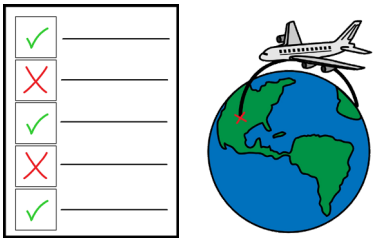
- **cannot** breath properly

- have a very fast heartbeat.



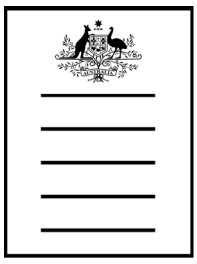
You can call any day at any time.

Will your vaccine from Australia be accepted in other countries?



Different countries will have different rules about travelling after you get your coronavirus vaccine.

You will be able to get a **vaccine passport** that can be used in other countries.



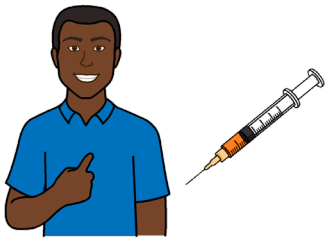
A vaccine passport is a document from the government that says you have had both vaccines.

You can find information about travelling to other countries on the website below.

smartraveller.gov.au/COVID-19/COVID-19-vaccination-certificates

How you can show that you have had a coronavirus vaccine

You can get your coronavirus vaccine **certificate** when you have had 2 vaccines.



A certificate is a legal document that says you have had the vaccine.

Your certificate can be

- online
- printed on paper.

If you have Medicare you can get your digital certificate here.

servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/medicare/express-plus-medicare-mobile-app

or here

my.gov.au/LoginServices/main/login

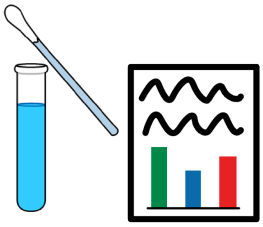
If you do **not** have Medicare you can get a digital certificate online here.

servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/subjects/getting-help-during-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-vaccinations/how-get-proof

If you do **not** have Medicare you can get a paper certificate.

Call 1800 653 809

How to make a complaint



You can make a complaint online if something went wrong when you had a

- coronavirus test

- coronavirus vaccine.

https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/making-complaint

More information

For more information contact

Drummond Street Services.

Call 03 9663 6733

You can get the full information on this website

cfre.org.au/lgbtiq-covid

Email enquiries@ds.org.au

National Relay Service

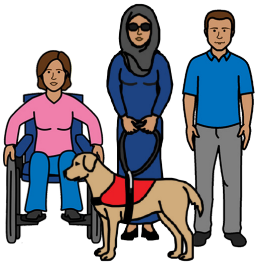
If you need help to speak or listen use the National Relay Service.

Call 1800 555 660

Website

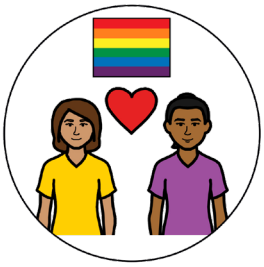
communications.gov.au/accesshub/nrs

Give the relay officer the phone number you want to call.



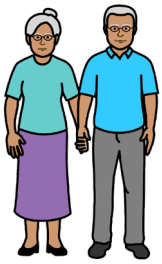
You can go to the website below for more information about coronavirus for

- people with disability



- LGBTIQ+ people

- people who know languages other than English



- older people.

coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-specific-communities

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