

Information for after your Pfizer (COMIRNATY®) COVID-19 Vaccine

Today your community pharmacist has given you the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**. Congratulations on taking this vital step in protecting yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19.

You may be receiving this dose as part of your primary course for maximum protection or as a booster. It is important that you have all your doses for full protection. The pharmacy staff can assist you with advice and booking for a follow up dose if needed.

A digital vaccination certificate will be automatically generated for you by Services Australia when you are fully vaccinated. You can see your COVID-19 digital certificate in your Medicare account through the Express Plus Medicare app or myGov.

What to expect after vaccination

You may experience some mild side effects following vaccination. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days and you will recover without any problems.

Common side effects after the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- ◆ pain or swelling at the injection site
- ◆ tiredness and fatigue
- ◆ headache
- ◆ muscle or joint pain and stiffness
- ◆ fever and chills

Less common side effects after the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine include:

- ◆ redness or itching at the injection site
- ◆ enlarged lymph nodes (swelling or tenderness in the armpit)
- ◆ feeling sick (nausea) or unwell
- ◆ pain in the arm
- ◆ insomnia

These side effects are usually mild, and start within a day after the vaccination and go away within one or two days. They can be managed by resting and using a pain medicine such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, or a cold compress if needed. Your pharmacist can assist with advice.

Some people experience more significant flu-like symptoms and may require time away from normal activities. These symptoms can occur after either dose but are more common after the second dose.

If after a few days of the vaccine you have unexpected symptoms or you have an expected side effect listed above that has not gone away, you should seek medical advice from your doctor or healthcare professional. Be sure to tell them that you have recently received the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**.

Serious reactions such as allergic reactions are extremely rare and usually occur within 15 minutes of receiving your vaccine, which is why you are asked to wait in the pharmacy afterwards. If an allergic reaction occurs, your pharmacist is trained and equipped to deal with this. After you leave the pharmacy, call 000 if you think you are having an allergic reaction and experiencing severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.

Myocarditis and pericarditis are very rare side effects that may happen after receiving the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**. Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart and pericarditis is inflammation of the heart lining. In the rare cases it has occurred, it has been within two weeks of having the vaccine and more commonly after the second dose of the vaccine – the peak risk group being adolescent and young adult males under 30. While the risk for children under 12 is not fully known, it appears to be rare. Most cases of myocarditis or pericarditis linked to **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine** have been mild and recovery has been quick.

You should attend your nearest Emergency Department or call 000 if you have any of the following symptoms, particularly within 1 to 5 days after vaccination:

- ◆ chest pain, pressure or discomfort
- ◆ irregular or skipped heart beats or 'fluttering'
- ◆ fainting
- ◆ shortness of breath or pain with breathing



Further information and side-effect checker is available from www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19-vaccination



Information about COVID vaccines in other languages is available from www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-in-your-language



The Pharmacy
Guild of Australia



Australasian College
of Pharmacy