

First Nations COVID-19 Vaccinations Keeping Mob Safe Information Kit

February 2021





Contents

Foreword	3
Frequently Asked Questions	4
FAQs on line	6
Summary of vaccines	7
Training for health workers	8
Communication materials	9
Key Messages	9
Resources	10
Further information	16
Key Links	16

Foreword

The COVID-19 Vaccination is the best way to help keep mob safe from coronavirus.

The roll-out of COVID-19 vaccinations are a significant step in protecting Queenslanders from the impacts of COVID-19 and is particularly important for protecting First Nations peoples and communities.

We all have a role to play in ensuring people access the most factual and accurate information regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. This kit includes information to support the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program in your community, including Frequently Asked Questions, communication resources, training information and links to further resources.

As we prepare for the implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program, and throughout the vaccine rollout, it is important to ensure people continue to practice behaviours that have kept us safe, such as good hand hygiene, social distancing and getting tested if they have any COVID-19 symptoms.

I thank you in advance for your assistance in communicating and supporting the COVID-19 vaccination program in your community.



Haylene Grogan

**Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officer, and
Deputy Director-General, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division
Queensland Health**

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the vaccines that are being considered for First Nations people in Queensland?

There are three vaccines being considered for use in Australia. You will probably hear them referred to as 'Pfizer', 'Astra Zeneca' and 'Novavax'. The Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines are now being used widely in the United States, United Kingdom and Europe.

The Pfizer vaccine has been approved for use by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The Pfizer vaccine needs to be stored at -70 degrees and has limitations in how many times it can be transported, which makes it difficult for use in regional and remote locations in Queensland. The Pfizer vaccine will be arriving in small quantities and will be used for hotel quarantine workers in urban and regional centres, border workers, and frontline healthcare workers at the highest risk of exposure – this is priority group 1a. The Australian Government will also be using Pfizer to vaccinate Aged Care residents and workers and Disability Care residents and workers.

The Astra Zeneca vaccine is expected to be approved by the TGA in February 2021 and may be made in Australia for delivery in March 2021. The Astra Zeneca vaccine is easier to transport and is expected to be made available to the next priority groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The Novavax vaccine is expected to be considered for approval later in 2021. It is a well-established technology and relatively stable for transporting.

Are the vaccines safe?

Only vaccines that have been approved by the TGA will be allowed to be used in Australia. The TGA, which has very strict standards, has approved the Pfizer vaccine. It is expected to approve Astra Zeneca in February 2021 for use in Australia.

Will children receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

Currently, the Pfizer vaccine is not approved for persons under the age of 16, and the AstraZeneca vaccine is not approved for persons under the age of 18.

What are the long-term effects of having the vaccine?


Most side effects are immediate and short term, such as a sore arm at the injection site. There is no current clinical evidence that suggests the vaccine will result in any long-term effects.

When will the vaccines be available?

We expect the Astra Zeneca vaccine will be available as soon as March 2021, pending TGA approval. Novavax will follow later this year if it is proven to be safe, effective and is approved for use by the TGA.

Who will be delivering the vaccines?

Currently, as Pfizer is the only vaccine approved by TGA, the rollout is only planned from six dedicated vaccine hubs.



Eventually, this will expand. For later phases of the vaccine rollout, we expect the vaccine will be available from various hospitals across Queensland, private practices, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Services, pharmacies, and private GPs.

Why are First Nations people considered vulnerable and a priority?

Some First Nations people are vulnerable to the effect of COVID-19 if they already have a chronic disease such as respiratory illness, diabetes or renal disease. COVID-19 makes these people more unwell and they need to go to hospital.

As such, First Nations adults are considered to be one of the priority groups, after Priority group 1a.

First Nations adults may be prioritised further locally, pending supply and other risk criteria.

What does it cost? What if I can't afford it?

The vaccine will be made available free of charge to all Australians.

How is Queensland Health managing the storage of the vaccines that require extremely cold refrigeration?

All vaccines require refrigeration; however, it is only the Pfizer vaccine that requires refrigeration at -70 degree Celsius.

Queensland Health has established six hospital hubs for Pfizer cold storage – Cairns Hospital, Townsville Hospital, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Gold Coast University Hospital, Princess Alexander Hospital and Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

As there are limited supplies of Pfizer, it will be used for those belonging to Priority group 1a first.

It is likely that all other Australians, including First Nations people not involved in quarantine, will be offered Astra Zeneca at expanded locations.

Is there enough Astra Zeneca for everyone who wants it?

Australia has purchased 50 million doses of Astra Zeneca so there is sufficient for everyone in Australia. If Novavax is approved for use it is expected that 51 million doses will also be made available in Australia during 2021.

Is the vaccine mandatory?


No, but we are asking all Queenslanders who can be vaccinated to get vaccinated. The vaccine is our best chance at reducing the seriousness of COVID-19 in individuals and potentially controlling the spread in community.

Do the vaccines protect against the UK variant of COVID-19?

Yes. Health authorities in the UK have reported that there is currently no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines (AstraZeneca and Pfizer) would not protect against the mutated virus variants. Health authorities will continue to monitor the effectiveness of vaccines against variant strains.

Can I talk to someone for further details about the COVID-19 vaccine?

Please contact your local health clinic or GP to discuss your personal situation regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, or access the Queensland Health website at Queensland Health website at



<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine>.

FAQs Online

Frequently asked questions are updated regularly by the Australian and Queensland Government on the websites detailed below.

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

Summary of COVID-19 vaccines

Experts around the globe are working on the creation and distribution of vaccines and treatments for the virus.

The Australian Government is in charge of selecting, buying and regulating the COVID-19 vaccines.

The Queensland Government is in charge of delivering the vaccine across our state.

Currently, the vaccines most likely to be used in Queensland are:

Pfizer

AstraZeneca

Novavax

The vaccines will be rolled out in stages, over a 6 to 12-month period. We expect the rollout of the vaccine to begin in late February 2021 for the highest priority groups. More information about the vaccine rollout in Queensland will be available soon.

For information about the vaccines:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/about-covid-19-vaccines>

Vaccination training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and health workers

As part of the planning and preparation for the COVID-19 Vaccination Program implementation, Queensland Health identified the need for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce to be able to administer the COVID-19 vaccine, especially in remote areas.

To ensure the workforce is ready, the First Nations COVID-19 Response Team, in partnership with the Cunningham Centre, in the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service, has developed specific training to ensure the workforce is ready.

The training includes two (2) online modules and one face to face workshop.

Training will be provided free of charge for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and Health Workers who are currently working in clinical roles in an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service, or who are working in Queensland Health.

It is intended to offer training for up to 200 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and Health Workers, to increase the available First Nations clinical workforce to deliver the COVID-19 vaccines in remote areas.

This approach aligns to principles of Health Equity and self-determination for First Nations people to deliver the vaccine for their own people. It also aligns with the Commonwealth approach, which is to provide training on handling, storage and management of the COVID-19 vaccines for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clinical workforce.

HOW TO REGISTER:

ONLINE AT CUNNINGHAM CENTRE AT THIS LINK:

www.health.qld.gov.au/cunninghamcentre

Communication materials

There is a wide range of communication materials available to support local communication about the COVID-19 vaccination program.

Key Messages

- The [Australian Government](#) is in charge of selecting, buying and regulating the COVID-19 vaccines.
- Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines have been developed faster than any other vaccine because of unprecedented funding, the availability of new technology and through the collaboration of researchers and developers around the world. Clinical trials and approval processes are happening at the same time, with new information and data about the vaccines coming in from around the world. This process is giving us access to the vaccines as quickly as possible, to help protect people from severe COVID-19.
- The [Queensland Government](#) is in charge of delivering the vaccine across our state.
- The Queensland Government has a plan to deliver them to Queenslanders, working alongside the Australian Government.
- The vaccine will be rolled out in stages, over a 6 to 12-month period. We expect the rollout of the vaccine to begin in late February for the highest priority groups.
- Vaccine priority groups are:
 - People who have an increased risk of developing severe illness or dying from COVID-19
 - People who are more likely to be infected or to spread COVID-19 to others, or are in a setting with high transmission (spreading) potential
 - People working in critical services, such as emergency service workers
- The first priority group for COVID-19 vaccine are:
 - quarantine and border workers,
 - frontline health care workers at the highest risk of exposure
 - and aged care and disability care staff and residents.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults have been identified as a priority group and will be able to get the vaccine soon after the first priority group.
- This is because some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults have a higher risk of getting and developing serious illness from COVID-19 due to a number of factors including having a high rate of chronic health conditions and greater chance of living in communities where crowded-living conditions exist, increasing the risk of spreading the infection.
- When looking for information, use trusted sources such as Queensland Health and the Australian Government. These sites will help you make an informed choice.
- The vaccine will be free and voluntary, but it is strongly encouraged.

- You need to continue COVID Safe behaviours, such as keeping two big steps away from others, good hand hygiene, staying home if unwell and getting tested for COVID-19

Resources

The table below includes a list of communication resources. All resources will be uploaded onto the Queensland Health [Asset Library](#) and are available to be downloaded and used locally. Additional resources to support the COVID-19 Vaccination program are being developed. The First Nations COVID-19 Response Team will advise when new resources are uploaded.

For any enquiries regarding the Asset Library, please email assetlibrary@health.qld.gov.au

COVID-19 Vaccination	
<p>POSTER 1: COVID-19 Vaccination for Health Workforce</p>	<p>Thank you to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health workforce for keeping us safe during COVID-19!</p> <p>You have played a valuable and important role in keeping safe our children, families and communities during COVID-19.</p> <p>Caring for our communities is your number one priority and the deadly health care provided needs to continue.</p> <p>It's very important for mob to keep up with their health care during COVID-19. Our health workforce needs to be protected against COVID-19 and have their vaccine. This is so our mob can feel safe when they come and visit you at the local health clinic.</p> <p>Keep up the deadly job you are doing during COVID-19 and continue to keep mob safe!</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>POSTER 2: Parents and COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>Are you a mother, father, grandparent or have children in your care? There are ways to keep them extra safe during COVID?</p> <p>Our communities have done a deadly job in keeping safe during COVID-19 by practicing social distancing, covering our coughs or sneezes and staying home if we are sick and getting a COVID-19 test straight away.</p> <p>You can provide extra protection for your children against COVID-19 by you having the COVID-19 vaccination and keeping up to date with your family's immunisations.</p> <p>The COVID-19 is an added protection to our COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.</p>

	<p>If you want to know more about the COVID-19 vaccine and to check if your family is up to date with their immunisations, speak to your doctor at the local health clinic.</p> <p>The doctor will help you make the right decision for you and your family or access the Queensland Health website at https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>POSTER 3: Young adults and COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>Are you aged between 18 and 25 years?</p> <p>If so, it's important to get the COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>Young people are very sociable, this means you like to go visiting friends and family, going to concerts, swimming at the beach or freshwater rivers, coffee shops, pubs/clubs and parties. Our people love their sports and like to go to football or other sporting carnivals to catch up with family and friends you haven't seen in a long time.</p> <p>These places generally have a lot of people and it can be very hard to socially distance by keeping 1.5m apart. This increases the risk of germs spreading including COVID-19.</p> <p>By having the COVID-19 vaccination this will help protect yourself, community and our vulnerable people like our Elders and those who have health problems.</p> <p>The COVID-19 is an added protection to our COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.</p> <p>If you are in this age group speak with the doctor at your local health clinic about the COVID-19 vaccine or access the Queensland Health website at: https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>POSTER 4: Community COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>KEEP OUR MOB SAFE!</p> <p>Let's keep our communities safe and get the COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>Our mob are very family oriented. We love to catch up at family gatherings at the park, in our homes or elsewhere and have a good laugh and lots of fun. This might mean attending Murri carnivals or cultural events like NAIDOC activities.</p>

	<p>These places generally have a lot of people and it can be very hard to socially distance by keeping 1.5m apart. This increases the risk of germs spreading including COVID-19.</p> <p>By having the COVID-19 vaccination this will help provide extra protection for yourself, community and our vulnerable people like our Elders and those who have health problems who attend these family gatherings or culturally important events.</p> <p>The COVID-19 is an added protection to our COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.</p> <p>In February 2021, Australia is expected to get a small amount of Pfizer vaccine. It will be used for everyone working with people in quarantine. Everyone else in Australia they will have access to Astra/Zeneca from March 2021.</p> <p>Keep safe, speak with the doctor at your local health clinic about the COVID-19 vaccine or if you are feeling sick, get tested.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>RADIO 1: Parents and COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>Our communities have done a deadly job in keeping safe during COVID-19.</p> <p>Are you a mother, father, grandparent or have children in your care?</p> <p>If so, think about how you can keep them extra safe during COVID-19.</p> <p>We need to provide them with extra protection against COVID-19. This means you having the COVID-19 vaccination to keep everyone safe.</p> <p>It's also important to keep your family's immunisations up to date.</p> <p>To get the COVID-19 vaccine you will need to pre-register and the health service will call you.</p> <p>Call your local health clinic for more information about the COVID-19 vaccine or your family's immunisation history.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>RADIO 2: Young adults and COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>Are you aged between 18 and 25years?</p> <p>If so, it's important to get the COVID-19 vaccination.</p>

	<p>Young people are very sociable, this means you like to go visiting friends and family, going to concerts, swimming at the beach or freshwater rivers, coffee shops, pubs and clubs.</p> <p>These places generally have a lot of people and it can be very hard to socially distance by keeping 1.5m apart. This increases the risk of germs spreading including COVID-19.</p> <p>Help keep mob safe and protect yourself and speak with the doctor at your local health clinic about the COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>RADIO 3: Community COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>KEEP OUR MOB SAFE!</p> <p>Let's keep our communities safe and get the COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>Our mob are very family oriented. We love to catch up at family gatherings at the park in our homes and have a good laugh and lots of fun. This might also mean attending Murri carnivals or cultural events like NAIDOC activities.</p> <p>These places generally have a lot of people and it can be very hard to socially distance by keeping 1.5m apart. This increases the risk of germs spreading including COVID-19.</p> <p>By having the COVID-19 vaccination this will help provide extra protection for yourself, community and our vulnerable people like our Elders and those who have health problems who attend these events.</p> <p>The vaccine is an added protection to our everyday COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.</p> <p>If you would like the COVID-19 vaccine you will need to pre-register. Speak with the doctor at your local health clinic for more information.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>SOCIAL MEDIA POST 1: Parents and COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>Our communities have done a deadly job in keeping safe during COVID-19 by practicing social distancing, covering coughs or sneezes and staying home if sick and getting a COVID-19 test straight away.</p> <p>Are you a mother, father, grandparent or have children in your care? If so, there are ways to keep them extra safe during COVID.</p> <p>You can provide extra protection for you and your children against COVID-19 by you having the COVID-19 vaccination and keeping up to date with your family's immunisations.</p>

	<p>The COVID-19 is an added protection to our everyday COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.</p> <p>If you want to know more about the COVID-19 vaccine and to check if you or your child is up to date with their immunisations speak to your doctor at the local health clinic. The doctor will help you make the right decision for you and your family.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>SOCIAL MEDIA POST 2: Young adults and COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>Are you aged between 18 and 25years?</p> <p>If so, it's important to get the COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>Young people are very sociable, this means you like to go visiting friends and family, going to concerts, swimming at the beach or freshwater rivers, coffee shops, pubs/clubs or parties. Our mob love their sports and like to go to Football or other sporting carnivals to catch up with family and friends you haven't seen in a long time.</p> <p>These places generally have a lot of people and it can be very hard to socially distance by keeping 1.5m apart. This increases the risk of germs spreading including COVID-19.</p> <p>By having the COVID-19 vaccination this will help protect yourself, community and our vulnerable people like our Elders and those who have health problems.</p> <p>The COVID-19 is an added protection to our everyday COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.</p> <p>If you would like the COVID-19 vaccine you will need to pre-register and the health service will call you.</p> <p>Speak with the doctor at your local health clinic about the COVID-19 vaccine or if you are feeling sick, get tested.</p> <p>#KEEPMOBSAFE</p>
<p>SOCIAL MEDIA POST 3: Community COVID-19 Vaccinations</p>	<p>KEEP OUR MOB SAFE!</p> <p>Let's keep our communities safe and get the COVID-19 vaccination.</p> <p>Our mob are very family oriented. We love to catch up for family gatherings at the park in our homes are elsewhere for a good yarn and laugh.</p>

Our mob also love their sport whether it's rugby league, soccer or touch! We love to attend our Murri carnivals and support our family and friends who participate.

We also like to attend cultural events like NAIDOC, Art and culture, ceremonies, flag raising, Sorry Day and National Reconciliation day events.

These places generally have a lot of people and it can be very hard to socially distance by keeping 1.5m apart. This increases the risk of germs spreading including COVID-19.

By having the COVID-19 vaccination this will help provide extra protection for yourself, community and our vulnerable people like our Elders and those who have health problems who attend these gatherings or culturally important events.

The COVID-19 is an added protection to our everyday COVID-19 Safe measures like washing hands regularly, staying home if sick and getting tested.

If you would like the COVID-19 vaccine you will be required to pre-register. Speak with the doctor at your local health clinic for more information.

#KEEPMOBSAFE

Further information

For any enquiries regarding the information contained in this kit, please contact:

First Nations COVID-19 Response Team

E: firstnations@health.qld.gov.au

Aaron Hoffman

Acting Senior Director, Engagement Branch, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Division

E: aaron.hoffman@health.qld.gov.au

Key Links

Queensland Health Website

For accurate information on COVID-19

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19>

Including **COVID Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions**

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/protect-yourself-others/covid-19-vaccine>

Queensland Health Asset Library

<https://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/atsihb/html/covid-19-first-nations-response>

Queensland Government COVID-19 Website

For latest information on COVID-19 including current restrictions, contact tracing, hotspots and information for businesses.

<https://www.covid19.qld.gov.au/>

The Australian Government

Department of Health website: <https://www.health.gov.au/>

For information about the vaccines:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/about-covid-19-vaccines>

National Coronavirus Helpline on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.