**Were COVID-19 vaccines developed too quickly to be safe?**

It may seem vaccines were developed quickly, but researchers around the world have been working hard to develop vaccines from the start of the pandemic. They were able to speed up development thanks to the collaboration between them, scientists, manufacturers and distributors.

**Does the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine cause blood clots?**

There has been a link established between the AstraZeneca vaccine and a very rare but serious side effect called thrombosis in combination with thrombocytopenia. There is a very low chance of this side effect, which may occur in around 4-6 people in every million after being vaccinated.

**Do people who have had COVID-19 and recovered need to get vaccinated?**

People who have had COVID-19 and recovered should still be vaccinated. The protection someone gains from having COVID-19 varies from person to person.

**Can COVID-19 vaccines connect me to the internet?**

COVID-19 vaccines do not – and cannot – connect you to the internet. Some of the mRNA vaccines being developed include the use of a material called a hydrogel, which might help disperse the vaccine slowly into our cells. Because of this, some people believe that hydrogels are needed for electronic implants, which can connect to the internet. The Pfizer mRNA vaccine does not use hydrogels as a component.

**Do COVID-19 vaccines contain a microchip or any kind of tracking technology?**

None of the COVID-19 vaccines in development contain software or microchips. They cannot be used to track people. Find out more below.

**Do COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility?**

The TGA will not approve a vaccine for use in Australia unless it is safe and effective. This includes impacts on fertility. None of the COVID-19 vaccines currently approved, or under review by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) cause sterilisation/infertility. Find out more below.

**Will the COVID-19 vaccine work if coronavirus mutates?**

All viruses mutate. COVID-19 is no different and there have been reports in media recently about new strains of the virus. Evidence tells us that the COVID-19 vaccines will still be effective against these new variants. Find out more below.

**Can COVID-19 vaccines alter my DNA?**

No, COVID-19 vaccines do not alter your DNA.

**Is the vaccine rollout a cover to collect DNA?**

COVID-19 vaccines in Australia are given by injection. There is nothing taken from your body, including your DNA. There is no way anyone can collect your DNA by having a COVID-19 vaccination.

**Are COVID-19 vaccines mandatory in Australia?**

Vaccination for COVID-19 is voluntary – as are all vaccinations in Australia – and people maintain the option to choose.

**Can COVID-19 vaccines give you COVID-19?**

None of the approved vaccines in Australia contain the live virus. This means they cannot give you COVID-19.

**Should you take blood thinning medication before having the AstraZeneca vaccine?**

It is not recommended to take over the counter medicine before receiving a vaccination for the purpose of preventing potential side effects. You should continue to take prescribed medication unless advised by your medical practitioner.

**Do COVID-19 vaccines cause autoimmune diseases?**

Autoimmune diseases, such as arthritis and multiple sclerosis, are chronic (long-term) illnesses and there is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines can cause autoimmune diseases.

**Are COVID-19 vaccines not effective?**

No. Both the Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines are very effective at preventing people from severe illness, hospitalisation and death if they catch COVID-19. Find out more below.

**Does the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine contain animal DNA?**

The AstraZeneca vaccine uses a chimpanzee adenovirus vaccine vector. This is a harmless, weakened adenovirus that usually causes the common cold in chimpanzees. It has been genetically changed so that it is impossible for it to grow in humans. Find out more below.

**If the vaccine is safe, why can’t kids have it?**

At this stage, neither the Pfizer nor the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have approval for use in children from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) because there are limited clinical trial results showing that the vaccines are effective and safe in these age groups.

**Will the flu vaccine protect me from getting COVID-19?**

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both viral infections but they belong to 2 separate groups. The regular flu vaccination does not provide immunity to, or protection from, COVID-19.

**Do fit and healthy people have to get vaccinated?**

COVID-19 is a highly infectious disease. Just because you’re fit and healthy doesn’t mean you won’t experience long-standing consequences from infection.

**Do people have to receive two doses and do they have to be the same type of COVID-19 vaccine for it to be effective?**

Yes, both Pfizer and AstraZeneca require two doses to provide the best immunity. It is important you get the same type of COVID-19 vaccine. This is because the evidence from clinical trials shows this is effective and is what is approved for use by the TGA.

**How long does it take to have immunity after vaccination?**

Both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines require the full 2 dose course for the best immune response. Individuals may not have the best protection until 7-14days after their second dose of the vaccine.

**How long will the COVID-19 vaccine last once I have had 2 doses?**

It is not yet known how long the protection of the COVID-19 vaccine will last. We will know more through ongoing research. Clinical trials are currently happening to find out if we will need booster doses on an annual or longer basis

**Do I have to pay for the COVID-19 vaccine?**

No, the COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone in Australia. Vaccination providers cannot charge you for the COVID-19 vaccine or for your appointments to receive the vaccine.

**Will we need to get a COVID-19 booster shot each year?**

It is not yet known how long the COVID-19 vaccine protection will last. Clinical trials are currently happening to find out if we will need booster doses on an annual or longer basis.

**Were COVID-19 vaccines rushed through approvals or given emergency use authorisations in Australia?**

he Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) provisionally approved these vaccines after a complete assessment of all the available data. The TGA does not have an "Emergency Use Authorisation" pathway for COVID-19 vaccines.

**Why do I have to wait 7 days between getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccine?**

It is recommended that people wait at least 7 days between a dose of seasonal flu vaccine and a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The 7-day time frame is a precautionary measure to manage the common side effects that come with many vaccinations.