

AstraZeneca COVID 19 VACCINE 2021 FORMULA

INFORMATION SHEET

Description

- The AstraZeneca vaccine provides protection against COVID 19. It will not prevent illness caused by other viruses. The vaccination will reduce the chance of you suffering from COVID-19 disease. Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective and it takes a few weeks for your body to build up protection from the vaccine. Some people may still get COVID-19 despite having a vaccination, but this should lessen the severity of any infection.
- The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 infection, and two doses will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, and not everyone gets them.

COVID-19 vaccination requirements

- You will need two doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for it to be fully effective; the two injections should be 28 days apart (or up to 12 weeks after the first dose).
- You may not be protected until at least 7 days after the second dose of the vaccine.

Who should get vaccinated?

- **All people eighteen years of age and older** should get the COVID 19 vaccine. This is especially important for people at higher risk for severe illness due to COVID 19 and their close contacts, including healthcare personnel and close contacts of children younger than sixteen years old.
- **Persons at higher risk of severe illness due to COVID 19 are:** people (60 years of age and older), and people with certain health conditions such as heart, lung or kidney disease or a weakened immune system as COVID 19 may worsen existing medical conditions.
- **Even if you have been sick with COVID 19 and have recovered, you are encouraged to receive the COVID 19 vaccine.** Due to the life threatening complications associated with COVID-19 and known cases of re-infection, you are encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine leaving at least four weeks from the time of infection.
- **Pregnancy and Breastfeeding. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, tell your doctor or nurse. There is limited data on using AstraZeneca in pregnant and breastfeeding women. Your doctor or nurse will discuss the best option with you.**

Who should not be vaccinated or who should wait:

Some persons should not be vaccinated without first consulting a physician. They include:

- Persons less than eighteen years of age;
- Any person with a history of immediate-onset of severe allergic reaction to a vaccine, medicine or food should not receive the AstraZeneca vaccine. A second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine should not be given to those who have experienced immediate-onset of severe allergic reaction to the first dose of AstraZeneca vaccination.
- People with a history of bleeding or bruising easily, or if you are taking blood thinners.
- People who have a moderate or severe illness with a fever (more than 38°C) should wait to be vaccinated.
- Pregnant or Breastfeeding mothers.

Possible side effects

Common Problems:

- Soreness, redness , bruising or swelling of the vaccine site
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Fever
- Muscle aches and pain

If these occur, they usually begin soon after the vaccine and last one to two days.

Uncommon or rare problems:

- Discomfort or feeling ill
- Lymphadenopathy (swollen or enlarged lymph nodes)
- Abdominal pain

Life-threatening allergic reactions from vaccines are very rare. When they do occur, it is usually within a few minutes to a few hours of receiving the vaccine.

Treatment of side effects

If you experience any side effects, please call the flu hotline at 1-800-534-8600 OR Text/WhatsApp 947-3077. If you have any difficulty breathing, call 911.

For more information

Talk to your healthcare provider; call your district health centre or refer to the question and answer brochure. You may also go online to the PHE website <https://www.gov.uk>