

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

COVID-19 vaccines Frequently asked questions

How successful were the recent pop-up clinics and will there be more of them?

ACT Health has successfully run three Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific pop-up clinics at Gungahlin Salvos, Yeddung Mura Aboriginal Corporation in Fadden, and Mura Lanyon Youth and Community Centre, Conder with 60 doses administered in total.

We are always looking for opportunities to further increase vaccination rates across the ACT and are happy to receive suggestions from the community about possible future pop-up locations.

What information is available about getting vaccinated during pregnancy?

If you are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy you can receive COVID-19 vaccine. This is because the risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 is significantly higher for pregnant people and their unborn baby.

Global data from large numbers of pregnant people have not identified any significant safety concerns with COVID-19 vaccines given at any stage of pregnancy.

People who are trying to become pregnant don't need to delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination. There is no evidence that people who become pregnant after being vaccinated against COVID-19 have an increased risk of developing complications that affect their pregnancy or their baby's health.

Individuals should discuss the timing of vaccination with their health professional.

You can find more information in the Australian Government Department of Health's [COVID-19 vaccination shared decision making guide for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning pregnancy](#)

Will COVID-19 vaccinations become mandatory?

The COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory, but we strongly encourage everyone who can to get vaccinated to protect themselves and our community.

While it is not mandatory, it has become [a condition of employment for some high-risk workforces](#) in the ACT.

In these situations, and under public health directions, people will be required to provide evidence of their COVID-19 vaccination status, or of an authorised exemption to vaccination.



How can we help combat misinformation in the community about vaccinations?

We understand that people have many questions about COVID-19 vaccinations and what it means for them.

We strongly urge all Canberrans to equip themselves with accurate and up to date information from credible and trustworthy sources, so that they can make the best decision for themselves and their families.

When looking for information on the COVID-19 vaccine, use trusted sources, such as the ones listed below:

- [Australian Government Department of Health website](#)
- [Therapeutic Goods Administrations website](#)
- [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation \(ATAGI\)](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

If you'd like to speak to someone about COVID-19 vaccines, you can call:

- the ACT COVID-19 vaccination line on [\(02\) 5124 7700](#). This line operates from 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week
- the National Coronavirus Helpline on [1800 020 080](#). This line operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

What supports are in place to help those people that have had adverse reactions to their vaccination?

The ACT Government has set-up a specialist clinic at the AIS Arena for the small portion of the population who are most at risk of developing a severe reaction following a COVID-19 vaccination. This includes people who have had a history of anaphylaxis to vaccinations, multiple or severe allergies to medications or unusual and complex immune conditions that mean they may react to vaccinations.

The specialist clinic ensures patients are monitored for longer than they might be at a community pharmacy or General Practice. Each patient has a dedicated nurse that has emergency department or ICU experience.

If an individual has an anaphylactic reaction following a COVID-19 vaccination or a prior history of allergic reactions or anaphylaxis to vaccines or vaccine ingredients, they are encouraged to speak to their GP, treating specialist or health care provider in the first instance. They will assess your suitability for COVID-19 vaccine and may provide a referral to the Canberra Hospital. Following their assessment, they may then arrange for you to receive your COVID-19 vaccine at the special clinic at the AIS Arena.



Is specific leave available for those who contract COVID-19 or who need to isolate while awaiting test results?

If you are unwell, awaiting the results from a COVID-19 test, or are under lockdown, quarantine, isolation, or stay-at-home orders and cannot work, you may be eligible for financial assistance.

The assistance will vary depending on your specific circumstances and eligibility.

Further information about payments can be found at <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/services-and-support/access-help>.

Where can I find out more COVID-19 information specific to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community?

You can find COVID-19 information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here:

- Australian Government Department of Health website:
 - [COVID-19 vaccination information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
 - [COVID-19 advice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and remote communities](#)
- ACT COVID-19 website - [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)
- [National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \(NACCHO\)](#)
- [Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services](#)

Who should I speak to if I have any further questions or concerns?

If you'd like to speak to someone about COVID-19 vaccines:

- call or visit a GP, pharmacist, vaccination nurse or other health care provider
- call or visit [Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services](#)
- call the ACT COVID-19 vaccination line on [5124 7700](#) (7am to 7pm, 7 days a week)
- call the National Coronavirus Helpline on [1800 020 080](#) (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- email ACT Health's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisors in the Community Engagement team on covid19hecclaboriginalandtorresstraitislander@act.gov.au.