

Today your child received the **COMIRNATY (Pfizer 5 to 11 years) Vaccine**.

Post Vaccination Observation

Even though the risk of a serious reaction is very low, you will be asked to stay at the Centre with your child for 15 minutes after vaccination to ensure your child's safety, or longer if your doctor thinks it's necessary.

Notify the centre staff IMMEDIATELY if your child experiences, hives, skin redness/itching, difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, difficulty swallowing, abdominal cramps, nausea/vomiting and/or diarrhoea. If you have already left the premises seek URGENT medical care or call 000.

What side effects should I expect?

As with any vaccine, your child may have some side effects after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days and your child should recover without any problem.

- **Common** side effects in children after **COMIRNATY** include pain, redness or swelling at the injection site, tiredness, headache, fever and chills.
- **Less common** side effects in children after **COMIRNATY** include joint pain, muscle pain and vomiting.
- Some people will have more significant flu-like symptoms from this vaccination compared to other vaccines and may require time away from normal activities. These symptoms may occur after either dose but are more common after the second dose.

As with any vaccine or medicine, there may be unusual and/or unknown side effects.

Medications are not usually recommended for mild symptoms however your child can take paracetamol or ibuprofen for fever and pain if you feel it is needed. If your child have swelling at the injection site you can apply a cold compress. You should see your GP if your child have any symptoms you are worried about.

Rare side effects that have been reported after **COMIRNATY** are:

- Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)
- Myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle)
- Pericarditis (inflammation of the heart lining)

You should seek medical attention after vaccination if your child has:

- Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat, or if your child collapses
- Chest pain, pressure or discomfort, irregular heartbeat, skipped beats or 'fluttering', fainting, shortness of breath, pain with breathing
- New or unexpected symptoms, or if you are worried about a potential side effect
- An expected side effect of the vaccine that has not gone away after a few days, like headache, fever or chills.

For symptoms which are not urgent, you can see your regular healthcare provider (usually your GP). Be sure to tell your doctor that your child has recently received the vaccine.

Vaccine Safety Monitoring and Reporting Side Effects

If you or your health care provider think a COVID-19 vaccine has caused a side effect, we encourage you to report it. Every report is valuable, as they help to maintain and improve the safety of vaccines. There are many ways to report, so you can pick the option that is best for you:

- Report to your GP or health care professional and they can report to the TGA or your State or Territory Health Department on your behalf
- Report directly to the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) online <https://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems>
- Report to the NPS MedicineWise Adverse Medicine Events Line on 1300 134 237 (7 days a week 8am-8pm AEST) (you will speak to a pharmacist who can also provide advice about symptoms management)
- Report to your state or territory health department

More details about reporting can be found here:

<https://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-suspected-side-effects-associated-covid-19-vaccine>

COVID-19 testing after vaccination

Some side effects from COVID-19 vaccination might be similar to symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g. fever).

However, COMIRNATY does not contain any live SARS-CoV-2 virus and cannot cause COVID-19.

Your child may not need to get a COVID-19 test or isolate:

- if your child develops general symptoms like fever, headache or tiredness in the first two days after vaccination, and
- if you are sure that your child doesn't have any respiratory symptoms (e.g. runny nose, cough, sore throat, loss of smell or loss of taste).

However, you should check the current guidelines in your state/territory for the most up-to-date information. This advice may change in the event of a COVID-19 outbreak in your local area. You may still need to get a COVID-19 test if you meet other criteria, for example if you are a close contact of a known COVID-19 case. If in doubt, seek medical assessment.

Vaccinated people can still get COVID-19. Even if they have no symptoms, or only mild symptoms, they could still pass the virus on to others. This is why it is important after vaccination to continue other preventative measures, such as physical distancing, hand washing, wearing a face mask (depending on age), COVID-19 testing and quarantine/isolation as required by your state/territory.

Get proof of your COVID-19 vaccination

Your child's vaccination details will be sent through to the Australian Immunisation Registry (AIR) today to update your child's immunisation history.

Your child's immunisation history statement records your COVID-19 vaccination status and should be updated with details of your child's covid vaccine within 48 hours.

The easiest way to get your child's statement is online using either your Medicare account through myGOV or the Express Plus Medicare mobile app. If you can't get your child's immunisation history statement online or need help, call 1800 653 809. Alternatively, contact the Centre to obtain a copy of your child's vaccination details.

Remember your second appointment

It is important your child receives 2 doses of Comirnaty, usually 3 to 8 weeks apart. Unless there are special circumstances, it is better for your child to get their second dose 8 weeks after the first (rather than a shorter interval) because better immune responses are more likely after a longer interval. Your doctor will advise the most appropriate time for your child.

Children who turn 12 before their second dose: The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 years contains a smaller dose of the active vaccine component compared with the dose for people aged 12 years and over. It is important that your child gets the correct vaccine for their age. If they received their first dose when they were 11 years old, and had their 12th birthday before their second dose, it is safe for them to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for people aged 12 years and over for their second dose.