

COVID-19 Schools Program FAQ



What vaccine will the student receive?

Students in years 11 and 12 who are aged 16 years and older will receive the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine, which has been approved as safe for use in Australia for people 16 years and older by the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). For more information, please read the following fact sheets:

- [Information on COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine](#)
- [After your Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination.](#)

What are the side effects?

Some people may experience minor side effects following vaccination, similar to those experienced following a flu vaccine. Common side effects include pain, redness and swelling at the injection site as well as more general side-effects such as fever, chills, headache and tiredness.

Most symptoms are mild to moderate, occur within the first three days after vaccination, and disappear within 1-2 days of when they start.

Rare side effects from the Pfizer vaccine include:

- Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis), which usually occur within the first 15 minutes following vaccination and is why patients are asked to remain at the vaccination clinic for observation for at least 15 minutes following vaccination.
- Myocarditis and pericarditis (heart inflammation). Most reported cases have been mild and people have recovered quickly often without treatment.
- If side effects persist or worry you, then please seek medical attention.

Is the student able to sign their own consent form?

Students may be able to sign their own **consent form** following discussion with the nurse administering the vaccine on the day. The student must be able to give informed consent.

However, we strongly encourage students and parents/guardians to discuss the vaccination beforehand and to complete the consent form together.

Forms are available in a number of languages and can be **downloaded here**.

How do I access my vaccination record?

Proof of a COVID-19 vaccination will be recorded on the student's immunisation history statement accessed through the student's Medicare online account, Express Plus Medicare app, the Australian Immunisation Register or My Health Record.

Do I need a Medicare number?

If the student does not have a Medicare card or is not eligible for Medicare, they can still get a COVID-19 vaccination for free.

What happens if my child is not at school on the day the clinic is there or would prefer to be vaccinated elsewhere?

If the student is unable to attend either the first or second dose clinic - or would prefer to be vaccinated at a different location - students or parents should call the Tasmanian Public Health Hotline on **1800 671 738** to arrange an appointment at a government clinic elsewhere in the community.