

Flowchart: Allergy and COVID-19 Vaccination

This flowchart is based on [ASCIA Guide: Allergy and COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (14 April 2021) which is based on the current knowledge regarding COVID-19 vaccines, allergic reactions and people with allergic conditions. It will be updated when new information is available.

1 Vaccinate without additional precautions

- ✓ People with immune system disorders (including allergy, immunodeficiencies and autoimmune conditions)
- ✓ Cancer or other serious co-morbidities
- ✓ History of allergy, including anaphylaxis to food, oral drugs, venom, or latex.
- ✓ Allergic conditions, including asthma, atopic dermatitis (eczema) or allergic rhinitis (hay fever).

2 Vaccinate with precautions*

- ✓ Immediate (within four hours) and generalised symptoms of a possible allergic reaction without anaphylaxis to a previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Prior history of anaphylaxis to previous vaccines and/or multiple drugs (injectable and/or oral).
- ✓ Generalised allergic reaction (without anaphylaxis) to one of the ingredients in the COVID-19 vaccine to be administered (Pfizer-PEG or AstraZeneca-Polysorbate 80).

3 Vaccination only after consultation with specialist vaccine review clinic#

- ✓ A known systemic mast cell activation disorder with raised mast cell tryptase, that requires treatment.
- ✓ Documented anaphylaxis to one of the ingredients contained in the COVID-19 vaccine to be administered (Pfizer – PEG or AstraZeneca - Polysorbate 80).
- ✓ Anaphylaxis to a prior dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- ✓ Previous confirmed history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST)
- ✓ Previous confirmed medical history of heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT)

COVID-19 vaccine side effects indicate the start of an immune response, not an allergic reaction.

- Some people will get mild, short-term side effects from vaccination, including injection site reactions, fever, joint pain, muscle aches, fatigue, headaches, or worsened eczema a day after vaccination.
- These common side effects indicate the start of an immune response, not an allergic reaction, which are rare. Side effects do not usually require treatment other than paracetamol for fever or discomfort.

GP Actions

Vaccinate in the community as per national recommendations, with a post-vaccination observation period of 15 minutes.

[GP Respiratory Clinics](#) can assist with vaccination in the community if unable to vaccinate

[GP respiratory clinics – HotDoc](#)

Individuals can also be vaccinated at any Metro North Vaccination Clinics
[Getting vaccinated | Health and wellbeing | Qld Government \(qld.gov.au\)](#)

Vaccinate in a clinic with an immediate Emergency Medical Response and a post-vaccination observation period of 30 minutes.

GP's can refer higher risk individuals to be vaccinated at a hospital-based Metro North Vaccination Clinic.

(Please provide documentation to support and communicate reason for presentation to hospital-based Metro North Vaccination Clinic.)

[Getting vaccinated | Health and wellbeing | Qld Government \(qld.gov.au\)](#)

GP to send referral through standard pathway to Central Patient Intake (CPI) Unit.

CPI will refer to Metro North Vaccination Medical Officer

E: metronorth-vax-MO@health.qld.gov.au

Metro North Vaccination Medical Officer to review referral and advise GP of outcome which may include:

1. Vaccinate in a clinic with an immediate Emergency Medical Response and a post-vaccination observation period of 30 minutes.
2. Referral for specialist review by clinical immunology / allergy or vaccinology specialist (this will be facilitated by Metro North Vaccination Medical Officer)

Note: Anaphylaxis with one type of COVID-19 vaccine may not preclude vaccination with another vaccine, but this should only occur if the precautions listed above are met. If there is a high risk of an allergic reaction to one of the vaccines (such as a known allergy to PEG or Polysorbate 80), it may be possible to have another vaccine which does not contain the ingredient, subject to availability and medical advice.