Information for after your Pfizer (COMIRNATY®) COVID-19 Vaccine

Today your community pharmacist has given you the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**. Congratulations on taking this vital step in protecting yourself, your family, and your community from COVID-19.

Two doses of **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine** are needed for maximum protection. **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine** may also be used as a booster. If this is your first dose, the pharmacy staff can assist you with booking in for your second dose. If this is your second dose or booster, a digital vaccination certificate will be automatically generated for you by Services Australia. You can see your COVID-19 digital certificate in your Medicare account through the Express Plus Medicare app or myGov.

What to expect after vaccination

You may experience some mild side effects following vaccination. Most side effects last no more than a couple of days and you will recover without any problems.

Common side effects after the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine include:	*Less common side effects after the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine include:*
◆ pain or swelling at the injection site ◆ tiredness and fatigue ◆ headache ◆ muscle or joint pain and stiffness ◆ fever and chills	◆ redness or itching at the injection site ◆ enlarged lymph nodes (swelling or tenderness in the armpit) ◆ feeling sick (nausea) or unwell ◆ pain in the arm ◆ insomnia

These side effects are usually mild, and start within a day after the vaccination and go away within one or two days. They can be managed by resting and using a pain medicine such as paracetamol or ibuprofen, or a cold compress if needed. Your pharmacist can assist with advice.

Some people experience more significant flu-like symptoms and may require time away from normal activities. These symptoms can occur after either dose but are more common after the second dose.

If after a few days of the vaccine you have unexpected symptoms or you have an expected side effect listed above that has not gone away, you should seek medical advice from your doctor or healthcare professional. Be sure to tell them that you have recently received the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**.

Serious reactions such as allergic reactions are extremely rare and usually occur within 15 minutes of receiving your vaccine, which is why you are asked to wait in the pharmacy afterwards. If an allergic reaction occurs, your pharmacist is trained and equipped to deal with this. After you leave the pharmacy, call 000 if you think you are having an allergic reaction and experiencing severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, wheezing, a fast heartbeat or collapsing.

Myocarditis and pericarditis are very rare side effects that may happen after receiving the **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine**. Myocarditis is inflammation of the heart and pericarditis is inflammation of the heart lining. In the rare cases it has occurred, it has been within two weeks of having the vaccine. It occurs more commonly after the second dose of the vaccine and in younger men under 30 years of age. Most cases of myocarditis or pericarditis linked to **Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine** have been mild and recovery has been quick.

You should attend your nearest Emergency Department or call 000 if you have any of the following symptoms, particularly within 1 to 5 days after vaccination:

◆ chest pain, pressure or discomfort
◆ irregular or skipped heart beats or 'fluttering'
◆ fainting
◆ shortness of breath or pain with breathing

Further information and side-effect checker is available from www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid-19-vaccination

Information about COVID vaccines in other languages is available from www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-information-in-your-language

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