



# After Vaccination Information for Pregnant Women

Vaccines, like any other medication or natural therapy can have side effects. It is important to be aware of any reactions that may occur after receiving the whooping cough (pertussis), flu (influenza) and COVID-19 vaccines.



## Are vaccines safe during pregnancy?

Yes. Before a vaccine can be used in Australia it must be licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The TGA uses scientific evidence on each vaccine to assess safety and effectiveness. The whooping cough, flu and COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be safe to have during pregnancy.



## Common reactions

Most vaccines can cause mild reactions; these are usually short lasting and do not require special treatment. If the reaction seems severe or persists and/or you are concerned, seek further advice from your GP or immunisation provider as soon as possible or go directly to a hospital. You can also receive general advice by calling:

### Immunisation Section at SA Health

 1300 232 272  
 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

### Healthdirect Australia

 1800 022 222  
 24 hours, 7 days

## Rare reactions

On very rare occasions a severe allergic reaction such as anaphylaxis may occur, requiring immediate medical treatment. Your immunisation provider is trained to recognise and manage any immediate severe reactions. A severe anaphylactic reaction will generally occur within the first 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine. Fainting may occur after receiving a vaccine and people should lie down if experiencing lightheadedness.

**It is important for you to wait for 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine so you may be observed for any reactions, and for treatment to be provided if needed.**

Common reactions	Management of common reactions
<b>All vaccines</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soreness, redness, itching, swelling or burning at the injection site for 1-2 days</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paracetamol</li> <li>Place a cool cloth onto the injection site</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fever (temperature)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paracetamol</li> <li>Have extra fluids</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A small hard lump may appear where the injection was given and persist for some weeks or months</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No treatment needed</li> </ul>
<b>COVID-19 vaccine</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fatigue/feeling tired</li> <li>Headache</li> <li>Fever</li> <li>Muscle or joint pain</li> <li>Chills/nausea</li> <li>Swelling of the lymph nodes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest</li> <li>Paracetamol</li> </ul>
<b>Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (Whooping Cough) vaccine</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drowsiness or tiredness</li> <li>Feeling unwell, muscle aches and/or joint pain</li> <li>Decreased appetite and/or nausea</li> <li>Headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest</li> <li>Paracetamol</li> </ul>
<b>Influenza vaccine</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drowsiness, tiredness and/or feeling unwell</li> <li>Muscle aches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest</li> <li>Paracetamol</li> </ul>

## How to report a reaction

Reporting a reaction following immunisation is an essential part of ensuring ongoing vaccine safety monitoring. All serious or unexpected reactions should be reported either by completing an online Vaccine Reaction Report Form at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation) or by contacting the Immunisation Section on 1300 232 272 during business hours. Alternatively you can report the reaction to your immunisation provider.

## Further information

For further information and advice about immunisation and pregnancy, speak to your midwife, doctor or immunisation provider.

Visit the Immunisation and Pregnancy page on the SA Health website at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/immunisation) or National Centre of Immunisation Research and Surveillance at [www.ncirs.org.au](http://www.ncirs.org.au).

Reference: the Australian Immunisation Handbook at [immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au](http://immunisationhandbook.health.gov.au)



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