

PATIENT INFORMATION – SPIKEVAX (MODERNA)

About the COVID-19 Vaccination:

Spikevax (Moderna) is a vaccine that can prevent people from becoming ill from COVID-19. Two doses are required initially (called the primary course). These two doses are given 4-6 weeks apart. In special circumstances the interval may be longer. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine can also be used for a booster dose in people aged 18 years and older. The booster dose is given 5 months or more after the primary course.

Moderna does not contain any live virus, and it cannot give you COVID-19. It contains the genetic code for an important part of the SARS-CoV-2 virus called the spike protein. After getting the vaccine, your body makes copies of the spike protein. Your immune system will then learn to recognise and fight against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19. The genetic code is broken down quickly by the body.

You can discuss any concerns or questions you have about COVID-19 vaccinations by booking an appointment in person or via telehealth with your GP before you receive the vaccine.

Medical experts have studied COVID-19 vaccines to make sure they are safe. Most side effects are mild and may only last for around 1-2 days. As with any vaccine or medicine, there may be rare and/or unknown side effects. Please call us on 6165 2444 if you experience any side effects such as sore arm, headache, fever, or any other side effects that might concern you.

People with a history of any of the following conditions can receive Moderna but advice should be sought from a GP, immunisation specialist or cardiologist about the best timing of vaccination and whether any additional precautions are recommended:

- Recent (i.e., within the last 3mths) or current inflammatory cardiac illness e.g., myocarditis and pericarditis
- Acute rheumatic fever or acute rheumatic heart disease (i.e., with active myocardial inflammation).
- Acute decompensated heart failure.

**** Tell your immuniser if you have had myocarditis or pericarditis diagnosed after a previous dose of Moderna or Pfizer.****

Some people may still contract COVID-19 after the vaccination, and it is important to follow strict public health precautions as required in your state or territory to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Please continue to:

- Keep your distance - stay at least 1.5 metres away from other people
- Wash your hands often with soap and water OR use hand sanitiser
- Wear a mask if advised by your state or territory
- Stay at home if are unwell with cold or flu like symptoms and arrange to get a COVID-19 test

By law, your vaccination must be recorded on the Australian Immunisation Register, and can be viewed via your: • Medicare account • MyGov account • MyHealthRecord account