



## COVID-19 VACCINE (Pfizer - BioNTech)

### What does it do?

The *COVID-19 vaccine* helps protect you against severe COVID-19 infection. It means you could have milder or no COVID-19 symptoms and recover faster.

### Before you start

- Tell your health professional if you currently feel unwell or have a fever.
- Tell your health professional if you have HIV, receive dialysis, take medicines which weaken your immune system, or if you have had heart inflammation (myocarditis) after a previous *COVID-19 vaccine*.
- Tell your health professional if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

### How is it given?

The *COVID-19 vaccine* is given as an injection into a muscle. It will be given to you by a health professional.

You will need to wait for at least 15 minutes after having your vaccine, to check you don't have an allergic reaction.

### What if you forget a dose?

You can manage your booking online at [bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz) or by phoning 0800 28 29 26.

### Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action  |
|--|---|
| Flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, aches and pains, nausea, headache, tiredness or weakness)<br>Pain, tenderness or redness at injection site | This usually passes after a few days, take paracetamol if needed. Tell your health professional if troublesome. |
| Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing   | Tell your health professional immediately   |
| Symptoms of heart inflammation including: fluttering, pounding or pain in your chest, shortness of breath                                    | Tell your doctor immediately  |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- The *COVID-19 vaccine* may cause swelling of your lymph nodes (a lump in your armpit or neck). Tell your doctor if they are still swollen after 6 weeks. If you have a CT scan or breast screening appointment, tell your health professional you have had your vaccine within the last 6 weeks.