

Flowchart: Allergy and COVID-19 Vaccination

This flowchart is based on [ASCIA Guide: Allergy and COVID-19 Vaccination](#) (23 July 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).
- ✓ History of venous thrombosis with or without embolism.
- ✓ Previous confirmed history of Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis (CVST) – proceed with COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine
- ✓ Previous confirmed history of Heparin Induced Thrombocytopenia (HIT) – proceed with COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine
- ✓ Previous confirmed history of Idiopathic splanchnic (mesenteric, portal or splenic) venous thrombosis – proceed with COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine
- ✓ Previous confirmed history of Anti-phospholipid syndrome with thrombosis – proceed with COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccine

Vaccination Clinic Actions

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

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).

Seek local expert medical advice e.g. infectious diseases clinician or immunologist. If not available, seek advice from: Metro North Vaccination Medical Officer
P: 3647 7406

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

If decision to vaccinate onsite, only at sites with full MET response plus post-vaccination observation period of at least 30 minutes.

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.

Requirement for specialist review by clinical immunology /allergy or vaccinology specialist.

Please contact Metro North Vaccination Medical Officer to discuss options

P: 3647 7406

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

**This is a Metro North Internal referral pathway. Referral to the specialist vaccination review clinic can only be accepted from an SMO associated with one of Metro North's six vaccination clinics. External referral will first require review at one of these clinics.*

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.

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.