

Ministry of Health

After Your COVID-19 Vaccine

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What should I expect in the next few days?

- Common side effects include pain, redness, swelling at the site where the needle was given, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and low fever.
- Serious side effects are rare. Call your doctor or nurse practitioner or go to the nearest emergency department if you develop any of the following adverse reactions within three days of receiving the vaccine: hives, swelling of your face or mouth, trouble breathing, very pale colour and serious drowsiness, high fever (over 40°C), convulsions or seizures, or other serious symptoms (e.g. "pins and needles" or numbness).
- The AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine is associated with a very rare side effect known as [Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia \(VIPIT\)](#). If you develop any of the following symptoms after receiving the vaccine please seek immediate medical attention: shortness of breath, pain in the chest, swelling or coldness in an arm or leg, persistent abdominal pain, severe or worsening headaches or blurred vision, or multiple small bruises, red or purple spots or blood blisters under the skin.

Do I still have to follow COVID-19 public health measures?

- The vaccine is an additional way to protect yourself against COVID-19. After either dose of the COVID-19 vaccine you should continue to follow COVID-19 measures, such as wearing a mask, practising physical distancing and washing your hands.
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and get tested if symptoms present.

When should I return for my second dose?

- You need two doses of vaccine to be fully immunized. If this is your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, be sure to get your second dose as directed by the clinic or the booking system. Bring your printed vaccine receipt that was given to you today to your second appointment.