



E-MAILED

Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA
Minister for Health; Mental Health

Our Ref: 76-12111

Ron Grant

Dear Mr Grant

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 January 2022 to the Premier regarding COVID-19 vaccines. The Premier's Office has asked the Hon Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, Minister for Health; Mental Health to respond to you on his behalf. Due to the significant volume of enquiries being received there has been an unfortunate delay in responding to your correspondence, for which I apologise.

While we are unable to provide responses to all the specific questions you have asked, we encourage you to access information about COVID-19 vaccines available online at the following websites:

- WA Department of Health website:
https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-vaccine
- Commonwealth Department of Health website:
<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>
- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) website:
<https://www.tga.gov.au>

The purpose of the vaccines is to minimise the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and death from COVID-19, and they are successful in this, as demonstrated around the world when comparing the rate of poor outcomes for unvaccinated people against the rate of poor outcome for those are vaccinated.

Vaccines are only available in Australia once proven safe and effective for use by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). All four vaccines approved by the TGA for use in Australia have been proven to be safe and effective in protecting against COVID-19.

Once a vaccine is in use in Australia, its safety is routinely monitored through existing systems as part of a national vaccine safety surveillance process led by the TGA. More information about this is available at the TGA website at: <https://www.tga.gov.au/covid-19-vaccine-safety-monitoring-and-reporting>. This website also contains a link to the weekly COVID-19 vaccine safety report, which contains comprehensive data pertaining to adverse event reporting for the COVID-19 vaccines, which may be of interest to you.

As noted by the TGA, vaccination against COVID-19 is the most effective way to reduce deaths and severe illness from infection. The protective benefits of vaccination continue to far outweigh the potential risks of an adverse reaction. If you have not yet been vaccinated against COVID-19, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible. You can find your nearest provider using the vaccine clinic finder at <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-vaccine-clinic-finder>.

In relation to mandatory vaccinations, please note that all Directions issued by the Western Australian Government are informed by existing State and Commonwealth legislation and are therefore legally binding. The Chief Health Officer is authorised to exercise any of the emergency powers listed in the Directions while Western Australia is in a public health state of emergency. Should you require information regarding the interpretation of the Directions in the context of other legislation, it is recommended you seek independent legal advice.

I trust this information is of assistance to you. Thank you for taking the time to write to the Premier.

Kind regards

Stacey Hearn
CHIEF OF STAFF

15 MAR 2022