COVID-19 Tricky Words

There are some special words people use about COVID-19.

These words can be hard to understand.

We want to explain what these words mean.

**Adverse event following immunisation**

This is if you get a bad reaction to a medication or vaccine.

It is not meant to happen.
**Anaphylaxis** is a bad allergic reaction.

An allergic reaction means your body reacts in a bad way.

This could be

- you cannot breathe
- you pass out
- your blood pressure goes down

You need to get medical help straight away.

**Asymptomatic** is when you have an illness but it does not make you sick.

It means you have no symptoms.

Symptoms are things like a fever.

You can have COVID-19 but feel OK because you are asymptomatic.
**Australian Immunisation Register** is a list of who has had vaccinations.

When you get the COVID-19 vaccination it goes on the Australian Immunisation Register.

**Booster injection** is when you get some more of a vaccine to make it last longer.

Some vaccines need a booster injection so it keeps working.

**Clinical trial** is a test of a new medicine or vaccine.

**Clinical trials** help make sure medicines and vaccines are safe to take.

**Consent** means that you say yes to something.

It also means you say you understand the information.
**Contraindication** means a reason why someone should not take a medicine or vaccine.

This could be because it is dangerous for them.

**Dose** means how much of a medicine or vaccine someone is given.

**Effectiveness** is how well a vaccine will work.
**Exemption** or exempt means that you do not have to do something.

You might not be able to get the vaccination because you are allergic to something that is in it.

Your doctor can write you a letter of exemption.

The letter will say that you cannot have the vaccination and why.

**Fully vaccinated** means that you had all doses of a vaccination that you should have.

**Herd immunity** is when enough people had a vaccine to keep everyone safe.

When there is herd immunity with COVID-19 it means it is less likely to spread in the community.
**Immune response** is how your body reacts to a sickness or a vaccine.

**Immune system** is how your body helps you fight sickness and stay healthy.

**Immunity** means you are protected from a sickness.

You might still get sick but you will not get very sick.

You get immunity when you have been around a sickness or if you have had a vaccine.

**Immunisation** is the same as **vaccination**.
**Immunocompromised** means that your immune system is weak.

This could be because you are sick or have a health condition.

**Pandemic** is when people all over the world get the same sickness like COVID-19.

**Roll out** is the plan to get everyone vaccinated.

The plan says when different people can get the vaccine.

**Observation** means that you need to stay at the place where you got your vaccination.

This might only be for 10 or 15 minutes.

It is to make sure you are feel ok after the vaccination.

Some places have an area for people to sit down after they got their vaccination.
**Side effect** is when the vaccine does something to your body.

A side effect can make you feel sick.

The **Therapeutic Goods Administration** makes sure that all vaccines and medicines in Australia are safe to use.

*TGA* for short.

**Transmission** is when a sickness goes from one person to another.

We want to stop the transmission of COVID-19.

**Vaccination** is when you get a vaccine. For COVID-19 the vaccination is a needle.

Vaccination stops you from getting sick.
Vaccine is a medicine to stop you getting sick.

A vaccine helps your body fight a sickness.

Other words you might here for vaccine are

• Jab

• Needle

• Shot

Vaccine hesitancy is when people are not sure if they want to get a vaccine.

The person might wait to get the vaccine or say no to getting a vaccine.

COVID-19 Variant means that the virus changes over time.

It can get worse.

Delta is a type of variant.

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