

## Preparing for our Covid-19 Vaccination - M Kelly 21 Feb 2021

Two Covid-19 vaccines are now being rolled out in Australia. Both are safe. We will all be wise to seek out vaccination at the first opportunity. If ~80% of adults achieve ~80% immunity through vaccination by Christmas, then 2022 may be more normal.

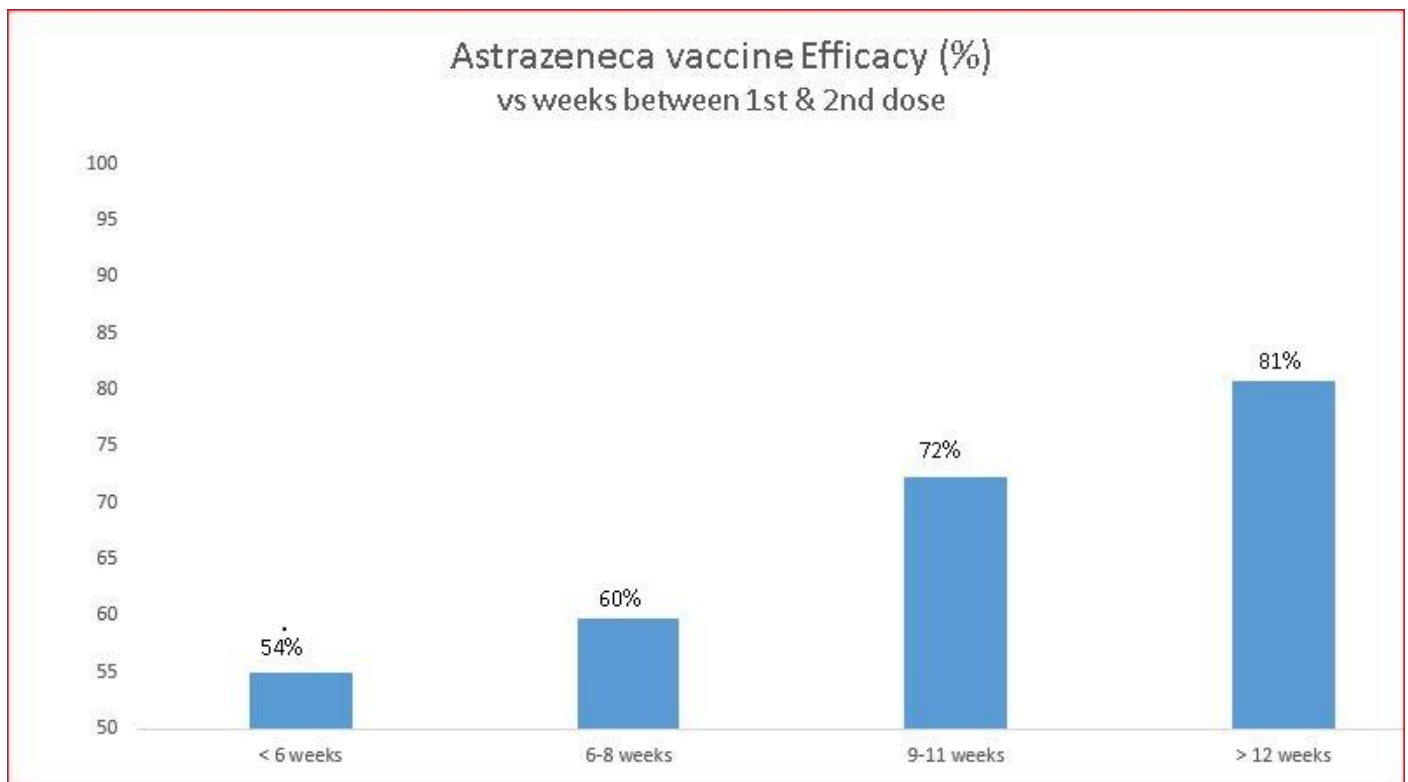
Vaccines have somewhat lower efficacy in seniors than in younger adults. This is counterbalanced by the vaccines being more effective at preventing severe disease than mild disease. On balance therefore, the scientifically published vaccine efficacy rates (see below) are likely a good guide to the protection that we as senior citizens are likely to receive from one or other of the available vaccines.

Australians over 65 years have been promised access to both vaccines on a case by case basis.

The **Pfizer** vaccine requires 1st jab to be followed by a booster in 3 weeks -> ~95% vaccine efficacy by 4 weeks

In northern Melbourne it will likely only be available at Austin Health, and supplies are limited.

The **AstraZeneca** first jab needs a booster ≥ 12 weeks later -> ~80% vaccine efficacy within ~13 weeks.



[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)00432-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)00432-3/fulltext) Published: February 19, 2021

It is less suitable for vulnerable individuals who may desire maximum protection within less than 3 months. In part this is why all western European countries other than the UK have disapproved the AstraZeneca vaccine for any individual over 70 years.

On the positive side the AstraZeneca vaccine is manufactured in Australia, and will be more widely available at medical practices, and later even at pharmacies. Most of our younger adult relatives will receive this vaccine. Children may not need vaccination.