ASTRAZENECA VACCINE ANNOUNCEMENT:

PORT MELBOURNE VACCINATION CLINIC UPDATE:

On Thursday evening, 08/04/2021, the Australian Government received advice from Australia’s expert vaccine advisory body, ATAGI (Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisations) regarding some changes to the vaccine rollout for those under 50.

Please see below for the full statement from the Federal Government released last night.

Summary of recommendations from the Australian Government and ATAGI:

* The Pfizer vaccine is now the recommended vaccine for under 50 year olds.
* ATAGI has recommended that the AstraZeneca vaccine can be used in adults aged under 50 where the benefits clearly outweigh the risks for that individual, and the person has made an informed decision based on an understanding of the risks and benefits.
* Those who have had their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine without any serious adverse effects can be given the second dose, including adults under 50 years.

At this stage, we do not know when there will be more Pfizer vaccine available in Australia. At the Port Melbourne Vaccination Clinic, we do not know if we will be receiving the Pfizer vaccine as one of the vaccines we can use.

I’ve had the AstraZeneca vaccine – what should I look out for in regards to blood clotting?

* It is important to note, the clotting disorder is extremely rare.
* Symptoms typically appear 4-20 days after the vaccine.
* It can present as a severe headache, not responding to usual painkillers, and may be associated with vomiting, blurred vision, seizures or a neurological symptom such as weakness somewhere in the body.
* If the clots have occurred elsewhere, people may experience abdominal pain, chest pain, shortness of breath, or a cold and painful limb.
* People may also have abnormal bleeding or bruising.

If any of the above symptoms occur, people should go straight to an emergency department for assessment.

Click here to see the joint statement from Professor Brendan Murphy, Department of Health Secretary, and Professor Paul Kelly, Australian Government Chief Medical Officer.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/joint-statement-on-covid-19-astrazeneca-vaccine-advice-from-atagi>

Click here to see the statement from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATGI) on the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in response to new vaccine safety concerns.

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/atagi-statement-on-astrazeneca-vaccine-in-response-to-new-vaccine-safety-concerns>

Click here to see an infographic from the UK which demonstrates the risk of COVID-19 infection vs risks of the vaccine. This link is provided on the ATAGI page above.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976877/CovidStats_07-04-21-final.pdf>