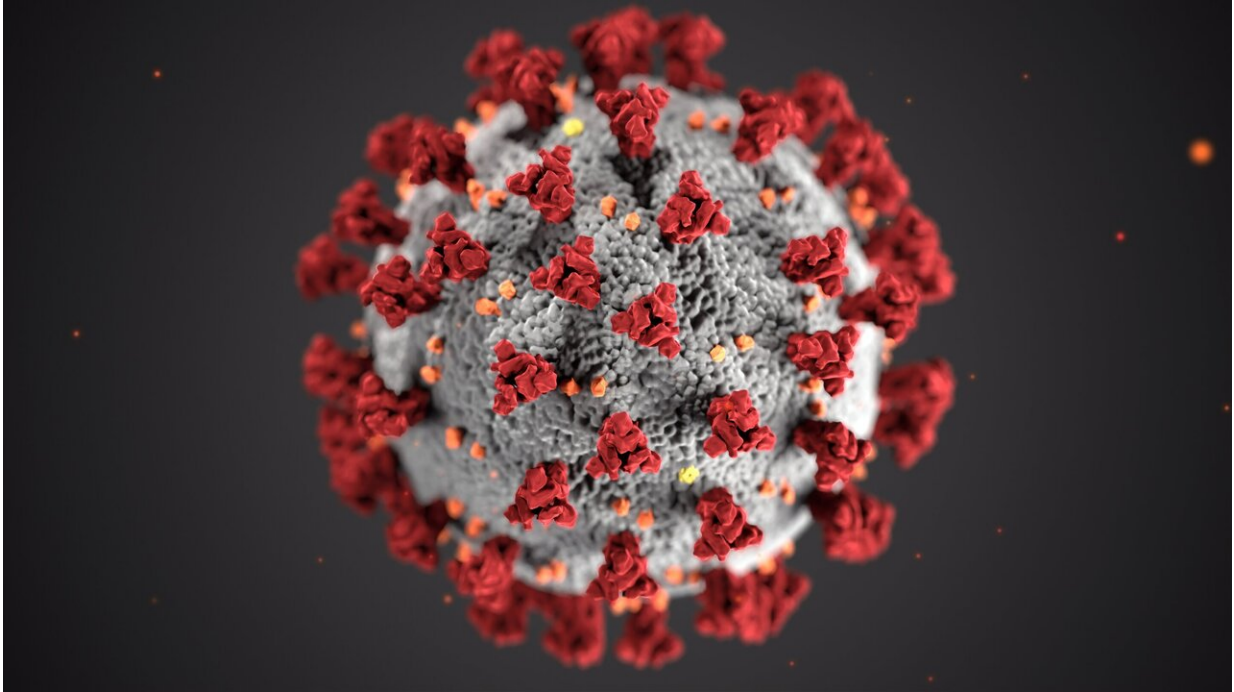


# COVID-19 risks explained with new tool

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A calculator to help people understand their risk factors for COVID-19 infection and vaccination has been launched by the Immunization Coalition in collaboration with Australian researchers.

The tool's three co-lead researchers are University of Queensland virologist Dr. Kirsty Short, CoRiCal instigator from Flinders University Associate Professor John Litt and GP Dr. Andrew Baird.

Dr. Kirsty Short said the [Immunization Coalition COVID-19 Risk Calculator](#) (CoRiCal) was an online tool to support GPs and [community members](#) in their discussions about the benefits and risks of COVID-19 vaccines.

"This tool is really designed to help people make an informed decision around vaccination based on their current circumstances and also see their risk for getting COVID-19 under different transmission scenarios," Dr. Short said.

"Users can access the tool and input their age, sex, community transmission and vaccination status to find out their personalized risk calculation.

"For example, you can find out your chance of being infected with COVID-19 versus your chance of dying from the disease.

"You can also find out your chance of developing an atypical blood clot from the AstraZeneca [vaccine](#) and see this data in the context of other relatable risks—like getting struck by lightning or winning OzLotto."

The CoRiCal COVID Risk Calculator is in its pilot stage but will be continuously updated in line with the latest health and scientific advice, including risk assessments on Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, pre-existing [medical conditions](#) such as obesity and diabetes, and long COVID.

The CoRiCal project included a team of GPs, medical scientists, public health physicians, epidemiologists and statisticians.

Associate Professor John Litt, Immunization Coalition Scientific Advisory Committee member, said he hoped that CoRiCal would help GPs save time and create an accurate assessment of an individual's risk of COVID-19 or one of the vaccines.

"GPs are spending a lot of time trying to explain the risks of COVID-19 and the various vaccines to their patients," Dr. Litt said.

"An accurate, evidence-based tool that is transparent and unaligned with professional groups should help GPs in their task of facilitating COVID vaccination for their patients."

Melbourne-based GP Dr. Andrew Baird said CoRiCal was adaptable for booster doses, new viral strains, new vaccines, younger age groups, international markets and even for other infectious diseases.

"It presents risk using simple bar-charts, so that it's easy to compare the risks for different outcomes related to COVID-19 and vaccines," Dr. Baird said.

"CoRiCal may help Australia to move towards 90 percent, 95 percent, or even more of the 16 and over population being fully vaccinated.

"The higher the rate of vaccination in the population, the better it will be for individuals, communities, mental health, health services, and the country."

Dr. Baird said while CoRiCal had been developed for GPs and other health professionals, it was important that people could easily access this information online without a consultation.

Risk calculations in CoRiCal are [based on a modeling framework](#) developed by UQ School of Public Health's Professor Colleen Lau and Dr Helen Mayfield, and QUT's Professor Kerrie Mengersen.

Provided by University of Queensland

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