

The coronavirus vaccine

Frequently asked questions

1	<p><u>Who can have the coronavirus vaccine?</u></p> <p>Anyone who is registered with a GP surgery in England can have a coronavirus vaccine and will be notified when they fit in the group being prioritised for vaccination.</p> <p>Anyone in England can register with a GP surgery and see a primary care doctor or nurse for free. You do not need to provide proof of identity or of immigration status in order to register with a GP surgery. This also applies if you are an asylum seeker, refugee, a homeless person or an overseas visitor, whether lawfully in the UK or not. You can register with a GP if you do not have one</p> <p>You should make sure your details are correct with your GP by contacting them directly. The GP receptionist can do this, you do not need to make an appointment.</p> <p>You can find your GP practice contact details by visiting www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp</p>
Getting a vaccine	
2	<p><u>When will I get the vaccine?</u></p> <p>The NHS is currently offering the coronavirus vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus. The order in which people will be offered the vaccine is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).</p> <p>The government have produced a full list of priority groups and the order in which they will be called for a vaccine. The NHS will let you know when it's your turn to have the vaccine.</p>
3	<p><u>When will people with a learning disability have the vaccine?</u></p> <p>All adults who have a learning disability are now part of group 6 for Covid-19 vaccinations in line with the advice from the JCVI.</p> <p>Most local areas have started vaccinating people who are in group 6. If they haven't already, they have been asked to start.</p> <p>We know not everyone with a learning disability is on their GP learning disability register.</p> <p>If you are, or care for, someone who has a learning disability and are not sure that you or they are on the GP learning disability register then please contact</p>

	<p>your GP and talk to them about this. If you have recently been invited for an Annual Health Check or flu vaccination, you are probably already on the learning disability register.</p> <p>If you think you are already on the register, it may take your GP a little while to contact you to invite you for your vaccination, so please be patient.</p>
5	<p><u>When will unpaid and family carers be vaccinated?</u></p> <p>Unpaid carers are part of group 6 for Covid-19 vaccinations. The JCVI defines unpaid carers as people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who get Carer's Allowance, or • who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of getting very ill or dying from Covid-19 and who is therefore clinically vulnerable. <p>Local areas have been asked to start planning for their vaccination of people in group 6.</p> <p>We will update this section when more guidance is published about vaccinating carers.</p>
6	<p><u>Are young carers eligible for a vaccine?</u></p> <p>Young carers aged 16 and 17 who are flagged on GP systems should also be prioritised for a vaccine. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is the only currently authorised vaccine under Regulation 174 which can be used for individuals aged 16 and 17.</p>
7	<p><u>When will people who live in a setting of multiple occupancy be vaccinated?</u></p> <p>Group 6 includes younger adults in long-stay in-patient, nursing and residential care settings or settings of multiple occupancy including residential colleges. Local systems are being asked to develop plans to offer vaccination to people aged 16-65 in settings of multiple occupancy, including residential colleges and supported living.</p>
8	<p><u>I am pregnant, should I still get the vaccine?</u></p> <p>The government has produced information about the vaccine for women who are pregnant, might get pregnant or who are breastfeeding.</p>
9	<p><u>I've had my flu vaccine; do I need a coronavirus vaccine?</u></p> <p>Yes. The flu vaccine does not protect you from coronavirus. You should have both vaccines but leaving a gap of one week between having them.</p>
10	<p><u>I have recovered from coronavirus. Can I still have a vaccine?</u></p>

	<p>Yes, if you are recovered and it is 4 weeks since you started having signs of coronavirus, or 4 weeks from when you got a test that came back positive (if you didn't have any signs).</p> <p>You can attend your appointment if you feel well and are not having any further symptoms. You must not attend your appointment if you are self-isolating, waiting for a coronavirus test or unsure if you are fully recovered.</p>
11	<p><u>Should I have the vaccine if I am isolating following showing symptoms?</u></p> <p>If you are unwell, it is better to wait until you have recovered to have your vaccine, but you should try to have it as soon as possible. You must not attend a vaccine appointment if you are self-isolating, waiting for a coronavirus test or unsure if you are fully recovered.</p>
12	<p><u>I have a coronavirus positive test result at the moment (or have had a positive result in the last 28 days), can I still have the vaccine?</u></p> <p>No, you need to wait until you are feeling better and/or you have had at least four weeks since symptoms started, or since the positive test result.</p>
13	<p><u>Do people who have already had coronavirus get the vaccine?</u></p> <p>Yes, they will get the vaccine when it is their turn.</p>
14	<p><u>Can I pay for a vaccine?</u></p> <p>No, the coronavirus vaccine is only available through the NHS to eligible groups and it is a free vaccination.</p>
15	<p><u>Do I have to get vaccinated?</u></p> <p>The coronavirus vaccine is not compulsory. The NHS have published information about the vaccine and how it can help protect you from coronavirus.</p>
Booking an appointment	
16	<p><u>Do I need my NHS number to book an appointment?</u></p> <p>Your NHS number should be on the letter you received asking you to book a vaccination appointment. If you don't have your number you can book a vaccination with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your name • Your date of birth • Your postcode <p>These need to be the same as the details held at your registered GP.</p>

17	<p><u>Can I book an appointment with my GP / at home to be vaccinated?</u></p> <p>The NHS will contact you when it's your turn to have the coronavirus vaccine. The vaccine is being offered at larger vaccination centres, pharmacies and some local NHS services such as hospitals or GP surgeries.</p> <p>When it's your turn, you'll be contacted by letter, text or email with information on how to book your appointment. Tell the person who you are booking the appointment with if you need support to help you have your vaccine.</p>
Having a vaccine	
18	<p><u>What will happen at the vaccine appointment?</u></p> <p>Your appointment should last about 30 to 45 minutes. You'll be asked some questions about your medical history and if you have any allergies. You will then be given an injection of the vaccine into your upper arm.</p> <p>If you need any reasonable adjustments making <u>you need to tell</u> the person when you make your appointment.</p>
19	<p><u>What happens after I've had my injection?</u></p> <p>You may be asked to wait for at least 15 minutes after having the vaccine to make sure you are ok. You will be given a leaflet to take home telling you about common side effects that can happen.</p>
20	<p><u>Can I bring someone with me to my appointment?</u></p> <p>If you need to bring someone along to your appointment then you can.</p> <p>However, to slow the spread of the virus we want to minimise how many people are travelling to the site, so please only do this if it's essential.</p> <p>For instance, if you come by car, the person you come with could wait for you in the car, if you don't need them to be with you for your appointment.</p>
21	<p><u>What if I book an appointment through the NHS website or 119 and I need to rearrange it?</u></p> <p>If you need to rearrange an appointment that you booked through the NHS website, you can do this through the 'manage your appointments' section on the booking page. If you booked through 119, you can also ring this service to rearrange your appointment. If you can't attend your appointment for any reason, please cancel or rearrange it as early as possible so that the appointment slot can be given to someone else who needs it.</p>
22	<p><u>Can I cancel my vaccination appointment that is due to take place today?</u></p>

	<p>If you cannot attend your appointment today no action is required for same day cancellations. Wait until tomorrow then go back online or call the service you booked your appointment with, and a new appointment or appointments can be booked.</p>
23	<p><u>Why are you making the wait between doses longer?</u></p> <p>The UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed a longer timeframe between first and second doses so that more people can get their first dose quickly, and because the evidence shows that one dose still offers a high level of protection from two weeks after you have had it. This decision will allow us to get the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives. Getting both doses remains important so you need to return for your second dose at the right time.</p>
24	<p><u>What happens if a person has the first jab but not the second?</u></p> <p>Both vaccines have been authorised on the basis of two doses because the evidence from the clinical trials shows that this gives the maximum level of protection.</p> <p>For both vaccines you get the vast majority of your protection from two weeks after the first dose. For the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine this is up to 89% protection, and for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine it is up to 74%.</p> <p>Getting the second booster dose is important so we would urge you to take up and attend your second appointment when the NHS contacts you about it. This is for your own protection as well as to ensure we don't waste vaccines or the time of NHS staff.</p>
25	<p><u>Are there any plans to develop a different way of giving the vaccine like the nasal spray which is used for the flu vaccine?</u></p> <p>Currently, the only effective route of the vaccine delivery is an injection and no alternative routes of vaccine delivery have been developed for the approved vaccines.</p> <p>It is important that all clinically vulnerable patients are protected although every individual case will need to be considered separately and a clinical decision made by the responsible clinician who is familiar with the patient and has done an appropriate risk assessment. We continue to consider very carefully what the appropriate reasonable adjustments may be in these cases and will share this information when we are able to.</p>
26	<p><u>Can I request reasonable adjustments to get my vaccine?</u></p> <p>Even during the vaccination programme, requirements to make reasonable adjustments to care under the Equalities Act still apply.</p>

	<p>If you or the person you care for needs a reasonable adjustment in order to receive the Covid vaccination, then please tell your GP/ pharmacist etc when you book the appointment.</p> <p>Reasonable adjustments could include having a back to back appointment for you and your carer so that you can vaccinated at the same time and/or having accessible information about the vaccination.</p>
27	<p><u>What is a record card?</u></p> <p>After you have had the first dose of the vaccine you will be given a record card with your next appointment on it. Keep your card safe and make sure you keep your next appointment to get your second dose.</p>
28	<p><u>Can I be vaccinated at the same time as someone I care for or who cares for me?</u></p> <p>We can only book for one person at a time. If both of you are eligible, it should be possible to book two appointments at the same location with similar arrival times. However, finding an appointment at same time, date and location will be subject to availability.</p>
Vaccine protection	
29	<p><u>How long after I have had the vaccine will I start being protected from coronavirus?</u></p> <p>Full protection kicks in around a week or two after you have had the second dose of the vaccine.</p> <p>Even when you've been vaccinated, you should still follow all the nationally recommended precautions to avoid getting COVID infection.</p>
30	<p><u>How long will I be protected from coronavirus after the vaccine?</u></p> <p>We don't know this information right now but over time this will become clearer.</p>
31	<p><u>Will the vaccine work with any new strains of the virus?</u></p> <p>Scientists are confident that the vaccine will still help protect people, but research will continue to make sure we have the evidence on how well it works with any new strains. It will also help us produce new vaccines if we need to in the future.</p>
32	<p><u>Will we need to have another vaccine every year like with the flu vaccine?</u></p> <p>We don't know this information right now but over time this will become clearer.</p>
Side effects	

33	<u>Will I get side-effects from the vaccine?</u>
	Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most side effects are mild and should not last longer than a week. The NHS has published information about expected side effects and what you should do if you have them.
34	<u>Can I catch coronavirus from the vaccine?</u>
	You cannot catch coronavirus from the vaccine, but it is possible to have caught it and not realise until after your vaccine appointment. If you have any symptoms you need to stay at home and arrange to have a test.
Vaccine safety	
35	<u>Is the vaccine safe?</u>
	The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
36	<u>How long does improved immunity last following the vaccine?</u>
	We don't currently have this information. The long-term effectiveness of the vaccine in preventing Covid-19 will become clearer with time.
37	<u>Does the vaccine affect fertility?</u>
	There is no evidence to suggest that Covid-19 vaccines will affect fertility. Claims of any effect of Covid-19 vaccination on fertility are speculative and not supported by any data. There is no biologically plausible mechanism by which current vaccines would cause any impact on women's fertility. More information can be found here.
	www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/
	www.rcog.org.uk/en/news/RCOG-and-RCM-respond-to-misinformation-around-Covid-19-vaccine-and-fertility/
Vaccine ingredients	
38	<u>Do the vaccines contain animal products?</u>
	The approved coronavirus vaccines do not contain any animal products or egg.
Consent	

39	<p><u>You have sent a letter to my relative at their home, but they have dementia/ don't have mental capacity. Can I book an appointment on their behalf?</u></p> <p>Yes you can book an appointment on behalf of someone else, if they are a person you usually make decisions for. You will need their NHS number and date of birth, or their name, date of birth, postcode and gender.</p>
40	<p><u>Can someone have a vaccine if they are unable to make the decision themselves?</u></p> <p>Yes, the healthcare professional offering the vaccine will do all they can to support the person to make the decision for themselves. Family members could help this process by giving the person information and explaining what is happening in advance.</p> <p>However, if this is not possible or is unsuccessful, then it may be appropriate to make a <u>best interests decision</u> under the Mental Capacity Act.</p>
41	<p><u>Where can people access trustworthy resources about the coronavirus vaccine?</u></p> <p>These resources will help staff provide accessible appointments to ensure people with a learning disability and autistic people in a high-risk group have safe and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid Vaccine film produced by Skills for People and Learning Disability England • PHE easy read Covid vaccination leaflet • PHE easy read What to expect after the vaccine leaflet • Easy read adult consent form <p>Additional training materials for COVID 19 vaccinators and volunteers provide top tips on communicating with people with a learning disability and autistic people and reasonable adjustments that should be considered.</p>