

Answers to questions about the coronavirus vaccine



Who can have the coronavirus vaccine?

Anyone who is registered with a GP surgery in England can have a coronavirus vaccine.

And anyone in England can register with a GP surgery and see a doctor or nurse for free.

This includes if you are an asylum seeker, refugee, a homeless person or someone visiting from a different country.

You do not need to show any documents to register with a GP surgery.

You can find out how to get in touch with your GP practice on the NHS website www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp





When will I get the vaccine?

At the moment, the NHS is giving the coronavirus vaccine to people most likely to get very ill from coronavirus.



When you get the vaccine depends on what group you're in.

What group you're in is based on things like your age and if you have health conditions.



There is a list that says what order people will get the coronavirus vaccine in. You can see it here - tinyurl.com/JCVIgroups



This is the NHS calling to make a Covid-19 vaccine appointment

The NHS will tell you when it's your turn to have the vaccine.



When will people with a learning disability needs get the vaccine?

Adults with a learning disability are now in group 6.

Local areas have started vaccinating people in group 6.



We know not everyone with a learning disability is on their GP learning disability register.



If you are, or support, an adult with a learning disability and are not sure that you or they are on the learning disability register, talk to your GP.



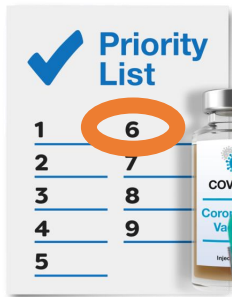
If you are in the group of people most likely to get very ill from coronavirus – called the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Group – you should already have been offered the vaccine.



When will unpaid and family carers be vaccinated?

If you are an unpaid carer, you will get your vaccine in group 6 if -

- you get Carer's Allowance, or
- you are the main carer for someone who is most likely to get very unwell from coronavirus (called being **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable**).



Local areas have started vaccinating people in group 6.



We will update this section when more guidance is published about vaccinating carers.

When can young carers aged 16 and 17 get a vaccine?

Young carers aged 16 and 17 should get their vaccine in group 6. If you're a young carer and you are aged 16 or 17 you should only get the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.





When will people who share a residential home with other people (sometimes called a setting of multiple occupancy) get the vaccine?

Group 6 includes people who live in -

- a long-stay in-patient hospital
- residential care
- residential colleges
- other places where lots of people live together



Local areas have started vaccinating people in group 6.

I've had my flu vaccine. Do I need a coronavirus vaccine as well?

Yes. The flu vaccine does not protect you from coronavirus. You should have both vaccines but leave a gap of one week between having them.





I am pregnant, should I still get the vaccine?

The vaccine has not been tested yet on pregnant people.



Most people who are pregnant or breastfeeding shouldn't get the coronavirus vaccine, unless you are at high risk of infection and becoming very unwell from coronavirus.



If you're not sure, you should talk to your doctor.



The government has made easy read information for people who are pregnant, might get pregnant or who are breastfeeding –

www.tinyurl.com/PregnantBF

I have recovered from coronavirus. Can I still have a vaccine?

Yes. You can go to your appointment if you feel well 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).



You must not go to your appointment if you have coronavirus, if you are waiting for a coronavirus test to come back, or if you not sure if you are fully better.

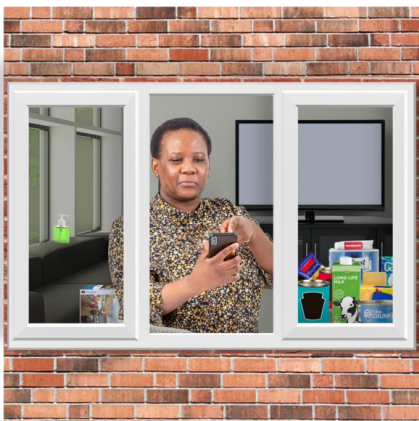


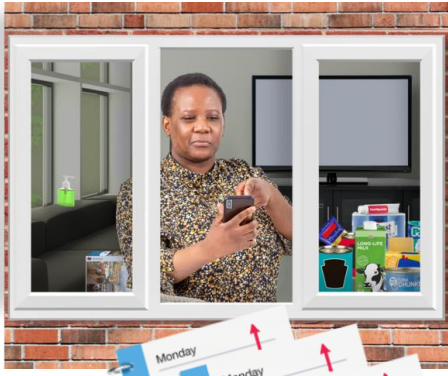
If you need to book a test, call 119 or go to the government website - <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>



Should I have the vaccine if I have had symptoms and I am staying at home (self-isolating)?

If you are unwell, you should wait until you have recovered to have your vaccine, but you should try to have it as soon as possible.





I have had a positive coronavirus result in the last 28 days (4 weeks), can I still have the vaccine?

No, you need to wait until you are feeling better and/or you have had at least 4 weeks since you started having signs of coronavirus (or 4 weeks after you tested positive if you didn't have any signs).

Do people who have already had coronavirus get the vaccine?

Yes, they will get the vaccine when it is their turn.

Can I pay for a coronavirus vaccine?

No, you can only get the coronavirus vaccine through the NHS and it is free.

Do I have to get the coronavirus vaccine?

No, you can decide not to have the vaccine if you don't want it.



Do I need my NHS number to book an appointment?

Your NHS number should be on the letter you got about booking your vaccine appointment.

But if you can't find your NHS number you can book a vaccine with your -

- name
- date of birth
- postcode.



Can I book an appointment with my GP / at home to be vaccinated?

The vaccine is being offered at larger vaccination centres, pharmacies and some local NHS services like hospitals or GP surgeries.

When it's your turn, the NHS will contact you by letter, text or email with information on how to book your appointment.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable and can't leave your home then the NHS will arrange to vaccinate you at home.





Can I request reasonable adjustments to get my vaccine?

Yes, you should get the reasonable adjustments you need to get the coronavirus vaccine.



Tell you're the person you book your appointment with what reasonable adjustments you need.



Reasonable adjustments could include having –

- a back to back appointment for you and the person who supports you so that you can be vaccinated at the same time
- having accessible information about the vaccination.



Are there any plans to be able to get the coronavirus vaccine in different ways - like as a nose spray?

At the moment, the only way we can give the coronavirus vaccine is as an injection.

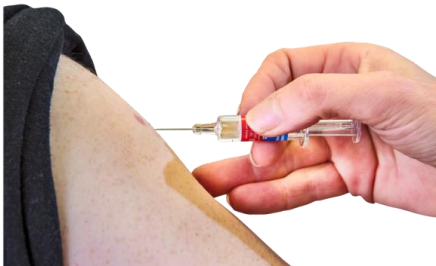




What will happen at the vaccine appointment?

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 the top part of your arm.



If you need any reasonable adjustments you should tell the person when you make your appointment.



What happens after I've had my injection?

You may be asked to wait for at least 15 minutes after you've had the vaccine to make sure you are ok.



You will be given a leaflet with common side effects that can happen. You can take this home with you.



Can I bring someone with me to my appointment?

If you need to bring someone along to your appointment then you can. Don't bring someone with you if you don't need to.



If you come by car, the person you come with could wait for you in the car if you don't need them to come in with you.



Can I be vaccinated at the same time as someone I support or who supports me?

We can only book an appointment for one person at a time.



If both of you have been told it's your turn for the vaccine, you should usually be able to book two appointments at around the same time.

This will depend on what appointments are available.



What if I book an appointment through the NHS website or 119 and I need to rearrange it?



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 go to your appointment, please cancel or rearrange it as soon as you can so someone else can get their vaccine at that time (unless it is today).



Can I cancel my vaccination appointment that is meant to be today?

If you can't go to your appointment today, you don't need to cancel.

Wait until tomorrow, and book a new one then.



Why are you making the wait between doses longer?

You might have been told to wait longer for your second dose of the vaccine.



This is so that the NHS can give more people some protection from coronavirus by giving them 1 dose.

But it is still important that you get your second dose when it is your turn.



What happens if a you have the first jab but not the second?

Getting both jabs is important to give you the best protection from coronavirus.



You get most of your protection from the first jab, but you need to make sure you got to your second appointment for your second dose too.



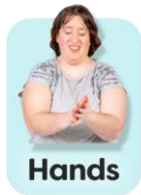
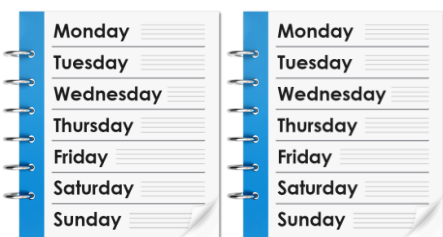
Name

1 Name of vaccine: _____
Batch no: _____ Date vaccine given: _____

Don't forget to attend your appointment to have your second dose of vaccine. You will have the best protection after two doses.
Second appointment date: _____

2 Name of vaccine: _____
Batch no: _____ Date vaccine given: _____

Public Health England gateway number: 2020311. Product code: COV2020311



What is a record card?

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 go to your next appointment to get your second dose.

How long after I have had the vaccine will I start being protected from coronavirus?

Full protection starts around a week or two after you have had the second dose of the vaccine.

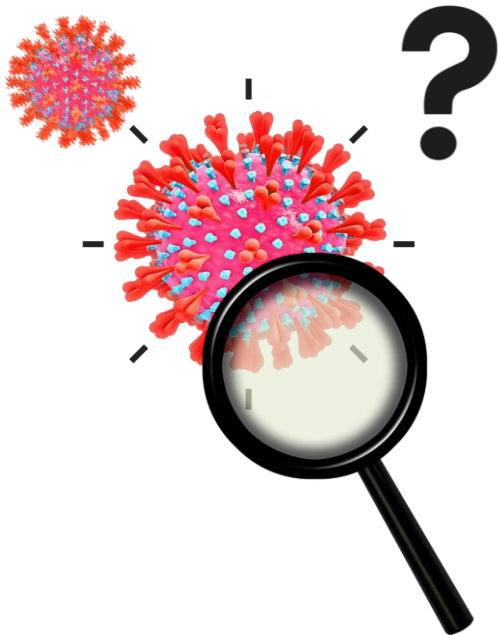
Even when you've been vaccinated, you should still follow all the rules.

How long will I be protected from coronavirus after the vaccine?

We don't know right now but we will find out more over time.

Will we need to have another vaccine every year like with the flu vaccine?

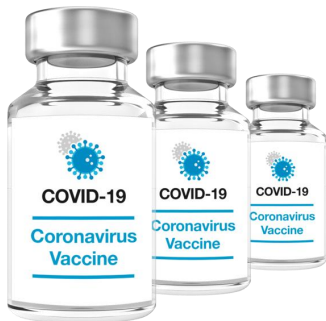
We don't know yet but will find out over time.



Will the vaccine work with any new strains of the virus?

Scientists think that the vaccine will still help protect people, but research will carry on 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.



Side effects

Will I get side-effects from the coronavirus vaccine?

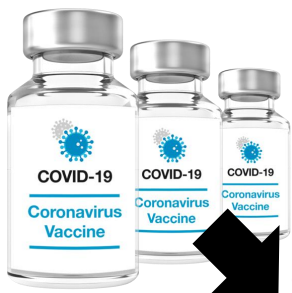
Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. This when you feel a bit unwell after having a medicine.

Most side effects are mild and should not last more than a week.

There is more information about expected side effects and what you should do if you have them on the NHS website –

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>





Can I catch coronavirus from the vaccine?

You can't catch coronavirus from the vaccine, but it is possible to have caught it and not realise until after your vaccine appointment.

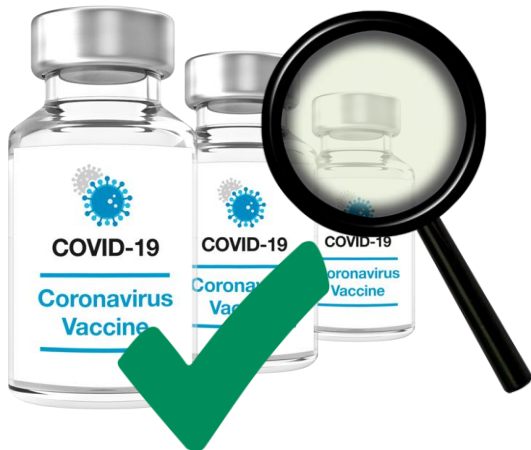


If you have any symptoms you need to stay at home and arrange to have a test.

Vaccine safety

Is the vaccine safe?

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have checked to make sure that the vaccines are safe.

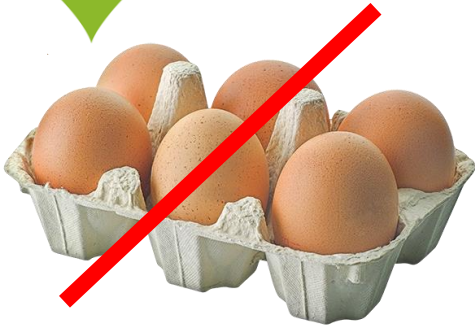


Does the vaccine affect fertility (whether you can have babies)?

There isn't any evidence that says that the coronavirus vaccine affects your fertility. There is more information on the RCOB website (not easy read) –

<https://tinyurl.com/VaccFert>





What's in the vaccine

Do the vaccines contain animal products?

The approved coronavirus vaccines do not contain any animal products or egg.

Consent

You have sent a letter to my relative, but they have dementia. Can I book an appointment for them?

Yes you can book an appointment for someone else, if they are someone you usually make decisions for.



You will need their -

NHS number and date of birth,



or

their name, date of birth, postcode and gender.

Can someone have a vaccine if they are unable to make the decision themselves?



Yes, the healthcare person who is offering the vaccine will try to support you to decide for yourself. Family members could help this by giving you information and explaining what is happening before the appointment.

But if they can't support you to decide, sometimes a best interests decision happens under the Mental Capacity Act.

This is when someone else makes a decision for you to keep you safe and well.



Where can I find resources about the coronavirus vaccine that I can trust?

Coronavirus vaccine film made by Skills for People and Learning Disability England <https://tinyurl.com/videoLDE>



Easy read coronavirus vaccine leaflet <https://tinyurl.com/VaccER>



Easy read 'what to expect after the vaccine' leaflet

<https://tinyurl.com/AfterVacc>