



**Keeping you
and your loved
ones safe.**

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Guide

COVID-19 Vaccine

With the roll out of a coronavirus vaccine it's natural to have questions about what it might mean for you and those you care about.

What do we know about a coronavirus vaccine?

More than one vaccine has been approved for use in the UK. Each vaccine requires 2 doses to be fully effective. If you've already received your first dose, it's likely your appointment for the second dose will be postponed for another few weeks.

However, everyone will receive 2 doses within 12 weeks and benefit from the maximum protection of the vaccine.

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

Coronavirus vaccines will be made available to all adults at some point. The NHS is currently offering the COVID-19 vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus. While we don't have enough information yet to know exactly when that might be, we do know it's going to require patience as not everyone's going to be able to get vaccinated at the same time.

The initial priority groups are set out below, starting with those considered high priority:

- Older adults that are a resident in a care home and their care workers.
- Everyone aged 80+ and all health and social care workers.
- Everyone aged 75+.
- Everyone aged 70+ and all those considered clinically extremely vulnerable and have been shielding.
- Everyone aged 65+.
- Everyone aged 16-64 with an underlying health condition which puts them at higher risk of becoming seriously unwell, and unpaid carers.
- Everyone 60+.
- Everyone 55+.
- Everyone 50+.

Age is a major risk factor for coronavirus, so the oldest age groups and older people living in care homes are a top priority.

Where can I get a vaccine?

The vaccine is being offered in some hospitals, pharmacies, local vaccination centres such as community, faith-led and larger vaccination centres, all run by GPs. The number of vaccination sites is increasing all the time to help vaccinate as many people as possible.

You also need to be registered with a GP surgery in England.

How can I get a vaccine?

The NHS will contact you and invite you to book an appointment when it's your turn. You may receive a phone call from your GP practice or local NHS service, but you may also be contacted by email, text message or by letter.

You may receive invitations to multiple sites, in which case you can choose where to get your vaccine. If you receive a letter from the NHS to book online or over the phone and the only available locations are too far away or not possible to get to then you can keep trying to book as more options and appointments are being added. You can also wait to be contacted by your local GP or NHS service.

As long as you're registered with a GP and have up to date contact details you should receive an invitation in due course.



I am worried about scams, what should I look out for?

The coronavirus vaccine in England will only be available through NHS England, you may be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a GP surgery or pharmacy to receive your vaccine, this may be over the phone, via letter, email or text message.

The vaccine is free on the NHS and no NHS organisation will ask for financial details including bank account or card details and PIN or passwords relating to your finance and banking.



If you believe you're the victim of fraud, please report to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.policy.uk.

Is the COVID-19 Vaccine safe?

Yes. While there will be different vaccines available, no one will receive a vaccine that hasn't been properly approved and shown to be safe. All approved vaccines offer a 'high' level of protection against becoming severely unwell with coronavirus.

For up-to-date information visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus



What are the possible side effects of the vaccine?

Each vaccine will have gone through trials to ensure the risk of serious side effects is low. However, as with other vaccines such as the flu vaccine, there are some common side effects. These could include:

- A sore, 'heavy' arm where you had your injection.
- Feeling tired.
- A headache.
- General achiness or mild flu-like symptoms.

If you do experience any of these side effects, they're likely to last no longer than a week. But if they do get worse or you're concerned you should call NHS 111 and explain your symptoms and let them know you've had a vaccination.

For up-to-date information about COVID-19 or the vaccine visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus



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