

The Covid-19 Vaccination programme

*Wellbeing area: Social / Money / Home / **Health** / Positivity / Independence / Work*
[Published]

[Sources include: JCVI 'Advice for priority groups for Covid-19 Vaccination', Public Health England 'Why you have to wait for your Covid-19 Vaccination', NHS 'Covid-19 Vaccine']

Introduction

The rollout of The NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Programme began on the 8th of December 2020 and marked a crucial development in the effort to control the transmission of the disease and protect those most vulnerable.

Currently, the Covid-19 vaccine is being offered to people most at risk from Coronavirus across hospitals, some pharmacies and community vaccination centres organised by GPs.

Age UK Islington has been working together with community partners, to provide staff and volunteers during the first stage of the vaccination programme.

Who is being offered the vaccine first?

The NHS have established 'priority risk groups' that will be offered the Covid-19 vaccine, in order of their risk from the disease.

The following groups are currently being invited for vaccination:

- Residents and staff in care homes for older adults
- All aged 80+
- Frontline health and social workers

Shortly, those eligible for invitation will include all aged 75+ and those 70+, who are classed as clinically vulnerable. The government is aiming to vaccinate the top 4 priority groups by mid-February 2021.

Click here for the full list of priority groups and clinically vulnerable conditions
> <http://bit.ly/2LrTRy1>

How will I/or the person I care for be invited?

The NHS will invite those eligible to receive the vaccine when it is their turn. In most cases, the invitation will be a letter from either a GP or the NHS and will include all the information required to book an appointment.

I am in a priority risk group but have not been invited, what should I do?

It is important that you do not contact the NHS or your GP to book a vaccination appointment until you receive an invitation letter. If you have recently moved, make sure to provide your current living address and contact details to your GP surgery.

If I care for a vulnerable person, can I get the vaccine?

On December 30th, 2021, The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), advised that unpaid carers aged 65+ will shortly be eligible to receive the vaccine, alongside members of the first 4 priority groups.

Unpaid carers under the age of 65, will be prioritised in Group 6 for invitation for the Covid-19 vaccine. This includes 'those in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill'^[1] It is important to make sure that your GP surgery is aware of your carer status if you are not in receipt of a carer's allowance.

For more information

Pubic Health brochure - Covid19 vaccination - a guide for older

adults: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/948640/PHE_11920_Covid-19_older_adults_v2.pdf

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

^[1] Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination. URL: <https://cause.eu.rit.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=091f2704-1b8f-4768-a2ec-5bc4119e1439>

Please note we cannot recommend or endorse. Information provided is accurate to the best of our knowledge at the time of publishing. If you find any inaccuracies, please notify us gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk

What can Age UK Islington help with? Age UK Islington provides adults (16 yrs+) in Islington with information and guidance about anything to do with your wellbeing, e.g. debt, housing issues, bereavement, support for unpaid carers (Islington Carers

Hub) and much more. We can also help you get the most of the local area, e.g. finding affordable social groups or training. Our staff are experts in finding the best way forward, and have lots of knowledge about local specialist partners.

Contact Age UK Islington Helpline: 020 7281 6018 (Mon to Fri 9 - 5pm) / gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk / info@islingtoncarershub.org