

INFORMATION ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

NO CORNERS CUT



All of the Covid-19 vaccines have gone through the same safety steps as any vaccine.

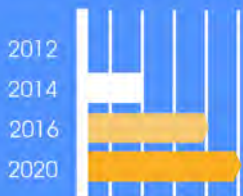


WORKING TOGETHER

It can take years for vaccine funding to be approved. The urgency of the pandemic meant money was made available quickly. Cooperation of scientists sharing existing research accelerated the process.



NOT STARTING FROM SCRATCH



Research had already been undertaken on other viruses. This meant scientists had data to start developing vaccines.

BEST PROTECTION



Vaccines prevent people from getting serious infectious diseases.

It is safer to learn how to fight illnesses through vaccination than by catching them and risking severe illness or even death.



SAFETY

3

The vaccines have been through three phases of clinical trials to ensure they meet the highest standards of safety.

IS THE VACCINE VEGAN / VEGETARIAN FRIENDLY?

The approved Covid-19 vaccines do not contain any animal products or egg.



SIDE EFFECTS

Some people may feel slightly unwell, but reports show that no significant side effects have been observed in tens of thousands of people.

Frequently asked questions



How long does the vaccine last?

The vaccines are still too new to be sure. The second dose does provide longer-lasting protection, so you must go back for your second dose when you are invited for it.



Which one will I get?

We can't tell you that and it is unlikely you will know before you attend your appointment. In the UK, the Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford/AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines have all currently been approved, with more on the way.

How quickly does it work?

It takes about 12-14 days. Your immune system needs time to respond. The second dose gives the best level of protection.



Which one is better?

They are all really good. All the approved vaccines are safe and effective. They work well at preventing serious illness. The studies have measured them in different ways, so it isn't possible to compare them.

Will I be able to pass on the virus to others if I've had the vaccine?



The evidence on whether they reduce the chance of you passing on the virus is less clear. It is likely that any infection will be less severe and that viral shedding will be shortened. You will still need to follow the hands, face, space guidance.



I've already had COVID-19, do I still need to get vaccinated?

Yes, it's really important to get the vaccine, even if you've already had Covid-19. You may have some level of immunity if you've had the disease, but this varies and may not last long.

Does the vaccine work against new strains of the virus?



It's likely that the vaccine will still protect you against new strains of the virus.

All of the Covid-19 vaccines are based on generating an immune response to the Covid-19 spike protein. Helpfully, the spike protein is quite large meaning the immune system generates many different antibodies. So, a few changes shouldn't mean that the vaccine won't work.

Do I still need to shield if I've had the vaccine?



Yes, if you have been told to shield you should continue until told otherwise. This is because you are one of the people at greatest risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GETTING THE VACCINE



WHEN WILL I GET THE VACCINE?

You will be contacted by the NHS when it's your turn. Vaccines are being given to the most vulnerable first. Once these are completed, the next groups will be announced.

It's being given to:

- people aged 80 and over
- people aged 65 and over
- people who are clinically extremely vulnerable
- people who live or work in care homes
- health and social care workers



It is expected that the programme will have extended to all adults by autumn 2021.



IS THE VACCINE COMPATIBLE WITH MY RELIGION?

The British Islamic Medical Association has considered all varieties of the vaccine and recommends that Muslims have the vaccine. The Muslim Council of Britain have confirmed that all the varieties of the vaccine are halal.



The British Sikh community has supported the vaccine as have Hindu leaders.



The Church of England says that all vaccinations can be used with a clear conscience.



The Catholic Church has said that the vaccines are acceptable and can be morally justified.

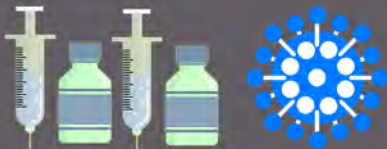


Jewish doctors in the UK have signed a letter to confirm that the vaccines do not contain any ingredients that are not kosher. Orthodox Jewish groups have also encouraged their members to get vaccinated.



How many Covid-19 vaccines are available in the UK?

The UK has so far secured 367 million doses. We are not sure exactly how many are in the UK now as this data hasn't been released. However, there are no current fears that supplies will run out.



Is a mass vaccination site planned for Sandwell similar to those which have opened at Millennium Point & The Black Country Museum?

There are currently 5 sites in Sandwell offering the vaccination and there are likely to be more GPs and pharmacists offering the vaccine soon. However, it is unlikely that we will have a mass vaccination centre due to the numbers of staff needed to run it.



Do all the vaccinations require two doses?

Yes. You will have the same vaccine twice. The first shot primes the immune response and the second mobilises the cells to a stronger response.

Will I get the same brand of vaccine for my second dose?

Yes. You will receive the same brand and level of dosage at both appointments.



Why is there a delay in giving people their second dose?

It's a way of vaccinating more people more quickly. Prioritising the first doses of vaccine for people on the priority list protects the greatest number of at-risk people in the shortest possible time.

When are you given an appointment for your second dose?

You will be given your second appointment when you attend your first. This will be discussed with you to arrange a suitable date and time.



How is your vaccine status recorded?

You will be given this information when you are vaccinated. All vaccines you receive should be on your healthcare record or GP record linked to your NHS number.