A guide to your COVID-19 vaccination
What is Covid-19 or Coronavirus?

Covid-19 is a new illness. It is sometimes called coronavirus.

Most people will get better from Coronavirus at home but some people can get very poorly and have to go to hospital

Sadly, sometimes people can die from Coronavirus

Some signs of Coronavirus are:

A new cough and you keep on coughing

A high temperature

Your smell or taste going away or changing

If you have the symptoms above, stay at home and arrange to have a test

If you need more information on symptoms visit www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms

If you cannot use the NHS website, phone 111 free of charge

About the vaccine

The Coronavirus vaccine is an injection

You will need 2 injections of the vaccine, which will be up to 3 to 12 weeks apart

The vaccine has been tested to make sure it is safe
Who should have the Coronavirus vaccines?

Some people are more likely to get poorly from Coronavirus than other people

All adults and some children are being offered the vaccine

Some people who are more likely to get poorly:

- People living in a care home for the elderly
- People aged 65 years and over
- Adults with Down’s syndrome

The vaccine will be also offered to adults with these health conditions:

- Problems with your kidney or liver
- Heart conditions
- Some brain conditions
- Breathing problems like severe asthma (needing steroid tablets)

This list doesn’t cover everybody
If you are more likely to get poorly, you should have been told by your doctor
Knowing if you should get a vaccine

Your GP should be able to tell you if you should get the Coronavirus vaccine

Some people may receive a letter, or a phone call to invite them for their vaccination

How to book your appointment

Your invitation letter will explain who to call for your appointment

Use the telephone to make your appointment

You will get told where to go for your vaccine and when

Some people may be asked to go to a primary care hub to have their vaccine (primary care hubs are places where you can get your coronavirus vaccine that are run by your local GP services)

If you’re not sure, speak to your GP (family doctor)
What do I do next?

When you’ve had the first injection, you will get told where and when to go for your second injection.

You should have a record card with your next appointment written on it for an appointment in 3 to 12 weeks time.

Although the first dose will give you good protection, you need the second dose to get longer lasting protection.

This is what the card will look like. Keep your card safe and make sure you go to your second appointment to get your second injection.

Don’t forget your COVID-19 vaccination

Make sure you keep this record card in your purse or wallet

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccination or what to do after your vaccination, see www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine

COVID-19 immunisation

Protect yourself.

Follow the current guidance www.gov.uk/coronavirus

How long will the vaccine take to work?

It can take a few weeks for the vaccine to protect you.

Does the vaccine work for everyone?

The vaccine doesn’t completely stop everyone getting Coronavirus, but if you do still catch Coronavirus it shouldn’t make you as poorly if you’ve had the vaccine.

What do I do next?

When you’ve had the first injection, you will get told where and when to go for your second injection.

You should have a record card with your next appointment written on it for an appointment in 3 to 12 weeks time.

Although the first dose will give you good protection, you need the second dose to get longer lasting protection.

This is what the card will look like. Keep your card safe and make sure you go to your second appointment to get your second injection.

Don’t forget your COVID-19 vaccination

Make sure you keep this record card in your purse or wallet

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccination or what to do after your vaccination, see www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine

COVID-19 immunisation

Protect yourself.

Follow the current guidance www.gov.uk/coronavirus

How long will the vaccine take to work?

It can take a few weeks for the vaccine to protect you.

Does the vaccine work for everyone?

The vaccine doesn’t completely stop everyone getting Coronavirus, but if you do still catch Coronavirus it shouldn’t make you as poorly if you’ve had the vaccine.
Side effects of the vaccine

Very common side effects include:

- Your arm feeling heavy or sore where you had the injection
- Feeling achy or like you’ve got the flu
- Feeling tired
- Having a headache
If you feel feverish (like you’re very hot or very cold) you should:

- Rest
- Take some paracetamol
- You should feel better in less than a week

You cannot catch Coronavirus from the vaccine but it is possible to have caught Coronavirus and not realise until after your vaccination appointment

If you are feeling very poorly or you’re worried you might have Coronavirus, call 111 or go on the 111 website

Make sure you tell 111 that you have just had your Coronavirus vaccine

If NHS 111 tell you to see a doctor or a nurse, make sure you tell them about your vaccination too

If you can, show them your vaccination card

Yellow Card

If you think you have a serious side effect from the vaccine you can report them using the yellow card scheme

The Coronavirus yellow card system is a website where you can report any side effects from the vaccine coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk

You may need support to access this website

I have had my flu vaccine, do I need the Coronavirus vaccine as well?

- Flu vaccine
- COVID vaccine

It’s important to have the flu vaccine and the Coronavirus vaccine

You can have both vaccines on the same day. You can also have them on different days if you need to.
What should I do if I am not well when it is my next appointment?

If you are not feeling well, wait to have your vaccine when you feel better.

You should try to have it as soon as possible. You can call the same number that you used to make your first appointment.

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you are self-isolating, waiting for a Coronavirus test or unsure if you are fit and well.

Can I give Coronavirus to anyone, after I have had the vaccine?

The vaccine can’t give you Coronavirus.

Having the vaccine makes you less likely to get very ill from Coronavirus.

The vaccine helps to protect you and those around you from catching and passing on the virus.

You still need to:

You do not have to social distance but you and the person who care for may still want to.

You do not have to wear a face mask. You can still wear one if it makes you feel safer, especially in crowded spaces.

Wash your hands carefully and often.

Open windows to let fresh air in.

Vaccination, helping to protect those most vulnerable.

You can order more of these leaflets here www.healthpublications.gov.uk