

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) VACCINATION

**ENGLAND, SCOTLAND
AND WALES**

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The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines are safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.



Source: Doctors of the world

WHO CAN GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

COVID-19 vaccines offered by the NHS will be freely available to all adults in England, Scotland and Wales, regardless immigration status. **This includes people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).** The NHS is currently offering the COVID-19 vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus.

The vaccines are being offered in some pharmacies, at local vaccination centres run by GPs and at larger vaccination centres. The NHS will vaccinate people in order of clinical risk, largely based on existing medical conditions and age groups from old to young. Some people are much more at risk than others of serious complications from COVID-19.

It's being given to:

- people aged 55 and over
- people who are at high risk from coronavirus (those with long term health conditions)
- people who are at greater risk of complications from coronavirus due to existing medical problems (such as COPD, asthma, heart problems, kidney or liver disease, diabetes and other long term health problems)
- people who live or work in care homes
- health and social care workers
- people with learning disabilities
- people who are eligible for Carer's Allowance

The UK government aims offer all adults their first dose of a vaccine by the end of July.



Is the vaccine suitable for everyone?

There's no evidence the COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe if you're pregnant. But more evidence is needed before you can routinely be offered it.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has updated its advice to recommend you may consider having the vaccine if you're pregnant and:

- at high risk of getting coronavirus because of where you work
- have a health condition that means you're at high risk of serious complications of
- coronavirus

You do not need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination. The vaccines do not contain any live virus and cannot give you or your baby COVID-19. There is no evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility.

You can have the COVID-19 vaccine if you're breastfeeding. Speak to a healthcare professional before you have the vaccination. They will discuss the benefits and risks with you.

You should not have the COVID-19 vaccine if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of the same vaccine or any of the ingredients in the vaccine.

People who have immunosuppression and HIV infection (regardless of CD4 count) should be given the vaccine.

People with blood clotting or bleeding disorders can still receive the vaccine but may need to consult with their care provider to make sure it is given at the right time during treatment.



**SOUTHEAST AND
EAST ASIAN CENTRE**



HOW THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS GIVEN

The COVID-19 vaccines are all given as an injection into your upper arm. They're given as two doses. You will have the second dose three to 12 weeks after having the first dose.

When you receive your first vaccine you will be given a small card with the vaccine details on it. You should keep this card safe. If you have to take your second vaccine dose at a different vaccination centre the card will make sure you receive the right type of vaccine.

HOW TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE

COVID-19 vaccines offered by the NHS will be freely available to all adults in the UK, regardless of immigration status.

It is easier to get the vaccine if you are registered with a General Practitioner (GP). This will ensure you have an NHS number and can book a vaccination appointment when you become eligible (based on age or clinical condition). Registering with a GP means that you can access other health and care services too.



**SOUTHEAST AND
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If you are homeless

You can register with a GP if you do not have a fixed address. You should explain to the GP practice that you don't have a fixed address but that you are staying in the local area and would like to register as a patient. You could use a temporary address, which may be a friend's address or a day centre, or the practice can register you without an address.

You should make sure the GP has a way of contacting you by telephone if they need to (for example, with test results).

If you are staying in accommodation for asylum seekers

If you are an asylum seeker staying in Home Office accommodation or contingency accommodation, such as a hotel, you should use the address of this accommodation when registering with a GP and say that you don't have proof of address documents because you are in asylum accommodation provided by the Home Office. If a GP refuses to register you, you should speak to your accommodation provider or **Migrant Help on 0808 8010 503 (free phone number)**.

If you find out the Home Office is going to move you to new accommodation, you should not delay taking the COVID-19 vaccine until you have been moved. You can receive your second dose of the vaccine at a vaccination centre near to your new accommodation.



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Will I be reported to the Home Office if I receive the vaccine?

Your information will not be shared with the Home Office immigration department when you access an NHS service that is free for everyone, regardless of immigration status. This includes GP services and COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccination services.

You should not be asked to prove your immigration status when registering with a GP or booking a COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

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HOW SAFE ARE THE COVID-19 VACCINES?

The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through. The MHRA follows international standards of safety.

So far, millions of people have been given a COVID-19 vaccine and reports of serious side effects, such as allergic reactions, have been very rare. No long term complications have been reported.

HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

The first dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines should give you good protection from coronavirus. But you need to have the two doses of the vaccine to give you longer lasting protection. There is a chance you might still get or spread coronavirus even if you have the vaccine. This means it is important to:

- continue to follow social distancing guidance
- if you can, wear something that covers your nose and mouth in places where it's hard to stay away from other people



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COVID-19 VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS

Most side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are mild and should not last longer than 2-3 days, such as:

- a sore arm where the needle went in
- feeling tired
- a headache
- feeling achy
- feeling or being sick
- a temperature or fever

You can take painkillers, such as paracetamol, if you need to.

Allergic reactions

Tell healthcare staff before you are vaccinated if you've ever had a serious allergic reaction. You should not have the COVID-19 vaccine if you have ever had a serious allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) to:

- a previous dose of the same vaccine
- any of the ingredients in the vaccine

Serious allergic reactions are rare. If you do have a reaction to the vaccine, it usually happens in minutes. Staff and volunteers at the vaccination centres are trained to deal with allergic reactions and treat them immediately.



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