

# Covid-19

## Vaccination Information



2021

### Further information

You can find out more by visiting these websites and searching Coronavirus

- [www.nhs.co.uk](http://www.nhs.co.uk)
- [www.bedford.gov.uk](http://www.bedford.gov.uk)
- [www.blmkccg.nhs.uk](http://www.blmkccg.nhs.uk)
- [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)
- [www.luton.gov.uk](http://www.luton.gov.uk)
- [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk)



## Introduction

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is the largest in the history of the NHS.

It is being offered in more and more locations in our area every week, so we can protect our most vulnerable residents.

This leaflet will help you to find out more about the vaccine and answer some of your questions.

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## Why should I have the vaccine?

Vaccines teach your immune system how to protect you from diseases. It's much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by catching the diseases and attempting to fight them.

Vaccines can reduce or even eliminate some diseases, if enough people are vaccinated. Since vaccines were introduced, diseases like smallpox and polio that used to kill or disable millions of people are gone from the UK.

Covid-19 has spread through our communities quickly. The vaccine could stop you from becoming seriously ill if you catch the infection.

Having the vaccine is your choice, however the NHS is encouraging everyone who can to have it. The more people who have the vaccine, the harder it will be for the virus to spread.

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## Is the vaccine safe?

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through lots of clinical trials and safety checks, like all other licensed medicines, before it is approved.

The Covid-19 vaccines made by Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, Oxford-AstraZeneca and more recently NovoVac and Johnson & Johnson have been declared as effective by the UK's independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulator (MHRA) after extensive trials.

The speed in which the vaccines have been developed does not mean that they are unsafe. The technology used to develop the vaccine is not new. It's been tried and tested for decades. It is with this technology and global investment to develop a Covid-19 vaccine that has allowed it to be available so quickly.



## Can I catch Covid-19 from the vaccine?

You cannot catch Covid-19 from taking the vaccine, but having the vaccine could stop you from becoming seriously ill if you catch the infection.

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## How do I get the vaccine?

There are three ways you can get the vaccine:

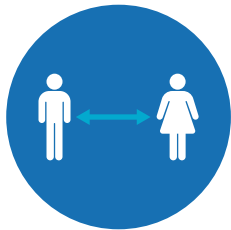
- When you meet the criteria set by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation, you will be contacted by your GP by letter, text or phone and invited to attend a GP or Pharmacy led vaccination clinic. There are over 20 sites across Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes;
- If you work in health and social care, you might be invited to book an appointment at a hospital hub or mass vaccination centre by calling a national number or using a weblink which they will give you at the time;
- As each cohort opens up people will be invited to book online at [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or call the national booking line on **119**, free of charge anytime between **7am and 11pm 7 days a week**.

# What do I need to know about the vaccination?

Our vaccination centres are safe, easy to access and make sure that social distancing is in place to protect you while you're with us.

We have volunteers at all our sites to help with car parking and mobility if you need help. We ask all residents to turn up for their appointment on time, not early, so we can keep everyone on site safe.

- Wear a face covering
- Bring your booking confirmation number
- Only attend if you have an appointment



## FAQs

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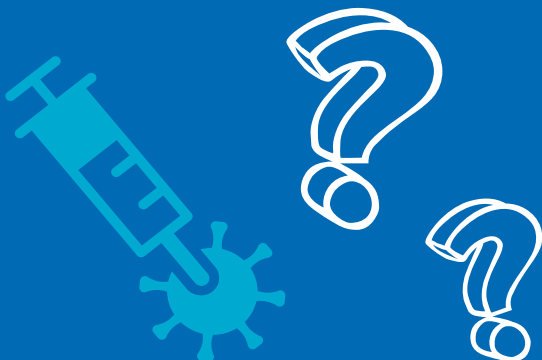
### **Who decides who gets the Covid-19 vaccine first?**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advise the Government on which vaccines the UK should use and provide advice on who should be offered the vaccination first.

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### **Are there any precautions I need to take before or after I receive the vaccine?**

You should follow existing advice to reduce the spread of Covid-19 as this will enable you to avoid becoming ill with Covid-19 or other respiratory illnesses, before and after vaccination.



# Will the vaccine be free if I'm in a priority group? Will it be free if I'm not?

The vaccine will be provided free to all UK residents. You will not be charged and can only get it through the NHS. Please do not agree to any vaccination where you will be charged. These are not genuine vaccinations.

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**The NHS will never ask for your bank details, or just turn up on your doorstep without an appointment. These are fraudulent activities.**



# Don't most people recover from Covid-19? So why do we need a vaccine?

Over 100,000 people have died having tested positive for Covid-19 in this country alone and our hospitals are full to capacity with people suffering from the effects of Covid-19. The small risk of minimal and often short term side effects of the vaccine far outweigh the risk of long term complications or death from Covid-19.

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# Are the vaccines being used to chip and track the population?

Vaccines do not include any chips or trackers for surveillance.

In truth there are far easier ways to track a person's movements already e.g. mobile phones.





## **If I decide not to take the vaccine it won't impact on others?**

No, your decisions don't just impact on you they affect your friends, your family and your community. Not taking the vaccine puts those around you at risk and will stop us all being able to get back to normal.

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## **I'm young and low risk so I don't need to take the vaccine?**

We are seeing increasing numbers of younger, fitter people admitted to hospital with Covid-19. Not only this but not having the vaccine puts others at risk. We all have a responsibility to protect each other so that we can reduce the impact of the virus and get our lives back to normal

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## **I've heard that the vaccine can affect fertility?**

Extensive testing across the world has found absolutely no evidence to suggest that the vaccine has any impact on fertility.

## **I've heard the AstraZeneca vaccine causes deadly blood clots, is it really a safe option?**

Yes, the AstraZeneca vaccine is safe. There have been some reports of extremely rare adverse reactions to AstraZeneca vaccine causing blood clots. However, the overall risk of getting a blood clot from the vaccine is lower than the risk from the birth control pill or smoking tobacco.

If you're worried about your personal risk, talk to your GP before getting the vaccine for more information.

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## **How am I sure I will not be going against my religious belief and practice if I take the COVID vaccine?**

All three vaccines have been approved by most faiths leaders. For instance the British Islamic Medical Association and other religious groups have given their approval. There are no ingredients within the vaccine which go against religious dietary restrictions or practices.

# Information

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If you require a translated summary of this information leaflet please contact **0300 7900 267** Your details will be taken by an English speaker who will pass on your request.

## Polish

Ta ulotka zawiera informacje o szczepieniach na Covid-19. Jeżeli potrzebne jest tłumaczenie na język polski, prosimy o telefon pod numer 0300 7900 267

## Romanian

Acest prospect vă oferă informații despre vaccinarea covid-19. Dacă aveți nevoie de el tradus în românește vă rugăm să sunați la 0300 7900 267

## Bengali

এই লিফলেট আপনাকে কভিড - ১৯ ভেকসিন সম্পর্কে তথ্য দেবে। আপনি যদি বাংলা ভাষায় এর অনুবাদ পেতে চান তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে কল করুন 0300 7900 267

## Urdu

یہ معلوماتی پرچہ آپ کو کوویڈ-19 ویکسین کے بارے میں معلومات فراہم کرتا ہے۔ اگر آپ کو اس کا اردو میں ترجمہ درکار ہو تو براہ کرم کال کریں: 0300 7900 267

## Arabic

هذا المنشور يوفر لكم معلومات عن تلقيح الكوفيد 19. إذا رغبتم في الحصول على نسخة مترجمة إلى اللغة العربية يرجى الاتصال بهاتف 0300 7900 267

This is to help you get an information leaflet in your own language.

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