

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Please note that guidance changes regularly. For the most up to date guidance, please refer to the MHRA website and NHS England information on coronavirus vaccines

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-programme/primary-care-guidance/>

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

Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The NHS is currently offering the COVID-19 vaccine to people most at risk from coronavirus.

At this time, the vaccine is being offered in some hospitals to:

- some people aged 80 and over who already have a hospital appointment in the next few weeks
- people who work in care homes
- health care workers at high risk

The vaccine will be offered more widely, and at other locations, as soon as possible.

The order in which people will be offered the vaccine is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

[Read the latest JCVI advice on priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccination on GOV.UK](#)

What if you're of childbearing age, pregnant or breastfeeding?

You should wait to have the COVID-19 vaccine:

- if you're pregnant – you should wait until you've had your baby
- if you're breastfeeding – you should wait until you've stopped breastfeeding

If you're trying to get pregnant, you should wait for 2 months after having the 2nd dose before getting pregnant.

There's no evidence it's unsafe if you're pregnant or breastfeeding. But more evidence is needed before you can be offered the vaccine.

[Read the latest COVID-19 vaccine advice if you're pregnant, may get pregnant or are breastfeeding on GOV.UK](#)

How the COVID-19 vaccine is given?

The COVID-19 vaccine is given as an injection into your upper arm.

It's given as 2 doses, at least 21 days apart.

How safe is the COVID-19 vaccine?

The vaccine approved for use in the UK was developed by Pfizer/BioNTech.

It has 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.

Other vaccines are being developed. They will only be available on the NHS once they have been thoroughly tested to make sure they are safe and effective.

So far, thousands of people have been given a COVID-19 vaccine and no serious side effects or complications have been reported.

[Read about the approved Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 by MHRA on GOV.UK](#)

How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine?

After having both doses of the vaccine most people will be protected against coronavirus. It takes a few weeks after getting the 2nd dose for it to work. There is a small chance you might still get 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

Information:

Read more about [why vaccines are safe and important](#), including how they work and what they contain.

What are the possible COVID-19 vaccine side effects?

Most side effects are mild and should not last longer than a week, such as:

- a sore arm where the needle went in
- feeling tired
- a headache
- feeling achy

You can take painkillers, such as paracetamol, if you need to. If you have a high temperature you may have coronavirus or another infection. If your symptoms get worse or you are worried, call 111.

It's very rare for anyone to have a serious reaction to the vaccine (anaphylaxis). If this does happen, it usually happens within minutes. Staff giving the vaccine are trained to deal with allergic reactions and treat them immediately.

Any person with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to a vaccine, medicine or food should not receive the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine. A second dose of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine should not be given to those who have experienced anaphylaxis to the first dose of Pfizer BioNTech vaccination.

Vaccine recipients will be monitored for 15 mins after vaccination, with a longer observation period when indicated after clinical assessment.

The health professionals overseeing the immunisation service are trained to recognise an anaphylactic reaction and be familiar with techniques for resuscitation of a patient with anaphylaxis.

Information:

You can report any suspected side effect using the Yellow Card safety scheme.

[Visit Yellow Card for further information](#)

COVID-19 vaccine ingredients

The COVID-19 vaccine does not contain any animal products or egg.

Can the vaccination give me Covid-19?

The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 infection, and two doses will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. You will still need to follow the guidance in your workplace, including wearing the correct personal protection equipment and taking part in any screening programmes. Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, and not everyone gets them.

It is possible to have caught COVID-19 and not realise you have the symptoms until after your vaccination appointment.

The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are recent onset of any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

If you have the symptoms above, stay at home and arrange to have a test. Further information on symptoms is available on [NHS.UK](#).

Can you give COVID-19 to anyone, after having the vaccine?

The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 infection, and 2 doses will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. We do not yet know whether it will stop you from catching and passing on the virus. So, it is important to follow the guidance in your local area to protect those around you.

To protect yourself and your family, friends and colleagues you still need to:

- practice social distancing
- wear a face mask
- wash your hands carefully and frequently
- follow the [current guidance](#)

How COVID-19 is spread

COVID-19 is spread through droplets breathed out from the nose or mouth, particularly when speaking or coughing. It can also be picked up by touching your eyes, nose and mouth after contact with contaminated objects and surfaces.

I have had my flu vaccine, do I need the COVID-19 vaccine as well?

The flu vaccine does not protect you from COVID-19. As you are eligible for both vaccines you should have them both, but normally separated by at least a week.

What is COVID-19 or coronavirus?

COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2. It was first identified in late 2019. It is very infectious and can lead to severe respiratory disease.

Many people who are infected may not have any symptoms or only have mild symptoms. These commonly start with cough, fever, headache and loss of taste or smell.

Some people will feel very tired, have aching muscles, sore throat, diarrhoea and vomiting, fever and confusion. A small number of people then go on to have severe disease which may require hospitalisation or admission to intensive care.

Overall fewer than 1 in 100 people who are infected will die from COVID-19, but in those over 75 years of age this rises to 1 in 10.

There is no cure for COVID-19 although some newly tested treatments do help to reduce the risk of complications.

How do I get to the Harrow Vaccination Centre?

The Hive Stadium, Camrose Ave, London HA8 6AG

Travel to The Hive:

Underground Train Links

Nearest Stations are Canons Park station (400m) and Queensbury Station (600m) both on the Jubilee line.

Bus Routes

The 288 bus runs along Camrose Avenue near the South entrance and provides access from Morrisons Supermarket, Queensbury station; Mollison Way; Bacon Lane and Edgware station. The 288 bus stop is 200 yards from the Hive South entrance.

The 186, 79 and 340 buses stop outside Canons Park Station.

The 186 bus route runs from Central Harrow, through Wealdstone, Belmont Circle , Canons Park Station and Edgware Station.

The 340 bus runs from Central Harrow, through Wealdstone, Uxbridge Road ,Stanmore to Canons Park Station.

The 79 bus runs from Kingsbury to Queensbury, along Honeypot Lane to Canons Park and Edgware Station.

Access by Car

Very large free car park

We will implement a one way system to facilitate easy, safe access.

Wheelchairs provided for patients transit to and from cars if needed