

COVID-19 vaccination communications

Update for Care Homes

Information for patients / families / carers / staff

Please see below some updated key information to help you answer enquiries from patients. Also attached are more detailed frequently asked questions from the NHSE national communications team.

A coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech has been approved for use in the UK.

We understand that many patients will want to know more about the vaccination, when you will be vaccinated and what it means for you. It is important to know that the NHS will contact you with further information when it is your turn to have the coronavirus vaccination.

Main message: *The NHS will contact you when it is your turn to have the COVID-19 vaccination.*

The vaccine will be offered first to the following groups (who are more at risk of coronavirus):

- people who live in care homes and care home workers
- people aged 80 and over
- health and social care workers in England

You can direct staff and patient / families to the following GOV.UK links for specific groups:

- **JCVI priority groups for vaccinations** (including specific information for shielding patients, children, those with underlying health conditions and mitigating inequalities) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-2-december-2020/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-2-december-2020>
- **Maternity** - women of childbearing age, currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding>

The NHS website also has further information about the vaccine, available here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/> - this includes the following line about **vaccine safety**:

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through. The UK has some of the highest safety standards in the world.

Vaccines will only be used if they are approved by the MHRA. The MHRA has been monitoring every stage of coronavirus vaccine development.

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

The vaccine does not contain porcine. See below for support from British Islamic Association and the Vegetarian Society.

<https://britishima.org/pfizer-biontech-covid19-vaccine/>

<https://vegsoc.org/lifestyle/flu-vaccinations-2020-what-you-need-to-know/>

<https://islamicportal.co.uk/is-the-pfzier-biontech-covid-19-vaccine-halal/>

Local arrangements

We expect to start rolling out the vaccine across Bradford District and Craven next week. To start with there will only be small numbers of vaccines available and it can only be given from a small number of sites. It is not possible to transport the Pfizer vaccine to other locations.

- Patients will be contacted by their GP practice to offer them a vaccine and an appointment to receive it.
- Staff will be asked to use an online booking system in order to arrange an appointment based on a prioritisation criteria. More information on this will be available later this week.

Remember: you are required to have two doses of the vaccine and immunity does not start until 7 days after the second vaccine.

Summary of information

- [COVID-19 vaccination programme](#) Documents relating to the new coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination programme. Updated: 7 December 2020
- [COVID-19 vaccination: what to expect after vaccination](#) Information for people who have had their first COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 7 December 2020
- [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#) Information for frontline health and social care workers on COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 7 December 2020
- [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for healthcare workers](#) Information for frontline healthcare workers on COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 7 December 2020
- [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for older adults](#) Information for eligible adults on COVID-19 vaccination. Updated: 7 December 2020
- [COVID-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding](#)