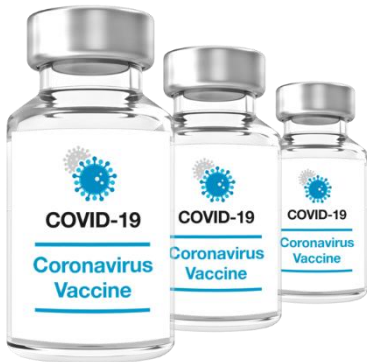




Coronavirus Vaccine Q&A

This document has some of the most commonly asked questions and answers about the coronavirus vaccine.



How does a vaccine work?

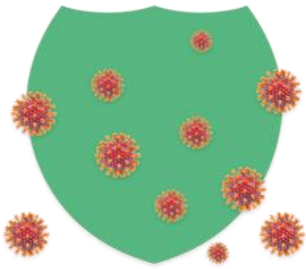
A vaccine is medicine that helps your body to fight an infection in the future.



A vaccine works by teaching your body's **immune system** how to fight the infection.



Your **immune system** is how your body fights off infections, like a cold or the flu.



Your immune system learns how to fight the coronavirus infection without you getting poorly.



If you catch coronavirus in the future, the vaccine should stop you from becoming very unwell.

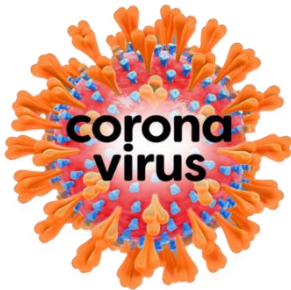


Scientists say that it looks like the coronavirus vaccine may also help stop people spreading the virus.



How is the coronavirus vaccine given?

The coronavirus vaccine is given as an injection into your upper arm.



Will a vaccine stop me getting coronavirus?

No. The vaccine will not stop you getting coronavirus.



It will help your body to fight coronavirus without getting poorly.



Do I have to have the vaccine?

In England, anyone aged 12 and over can have the coronavirus vaccine.



You can choose if you want to have the vaccine or not.



If you are not sure about having the vaccine, people can support you to get more information.



If you are not able to make the decision for yourself, other people will help you to decide if you should have the vaccine.



This might be staff that support you, a doctor or family member.

How do I know the vaccine is safe?



The Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA) makes sure that vaccines work well and are safe to use.



All vaccines in the UK have been checked by the MHRA which means that they are as safe as possible to use.



If I want to have the vaccine, what should I do?

If you want to have the coronavirus vaccine and have not yet had it, you can:



- book an appointment at a vaccination centre [on the NHS website](#) or by phoning 119



- find out where there are coronavirus vaccination walk-in centres [on the NHS website](#).



You do not need an appointment to go to a walk-in centre.



- contact your GP surgery to let them know you would like to have the coronavirus vaccine

How many injections will I need?



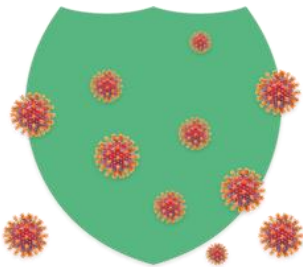
Most people will have 2 doses of the coronavirus vaccine.



You need to wait for at least 8 weeks after your first dose of the vaccine before you can have your 2nd injection.



If you are aged 12 – 15 you need to wait for at least 12 weeks after your first dose of the vaccine before you can have your 2nd injection.



If your **immune system** was not working very well when you had your coronavirus vaccine, you can have a 3rd dose of the coronavirus vaccine.



If you need a 3rd dose of the coronavirus vaccine, your GP or hospital doctor will send you a letter about this.



If you have a 3rd dose of the coronavirus vaccine, it does not mean you have had your booster jab.



There is some easy read information about booster jabs on www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources



Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects.



Some people might feel poorly after their injection.



After your injection, you will be asked to wait for 15 minutes in case you have any side effects.

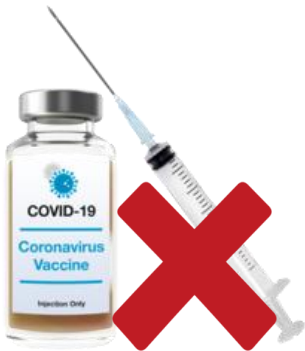


You will be given information about the vaccine you have had, how to look for side effects and what to do if they happen.

What should I do if I have allergies?



It is important that you tell the person doing the vaccination if you have any allergies.



If you have had **anaphylaxis** from a vaccine, medicine or food in the past, you should not have the Pfizer vaccine.



Anaphylaxis is when your body goes into shock because you are allergic to something.



You must tell the healthcare professionals doing the vaccination if you have allergies.



Should I still have the vaccine if I have had coronavirus?

Yes.



If you have had coronavirus, you must wait for 4 weeks (28 days) before you have the coronavirus vaccine.



The 28 days start from the date you had symptoms, or the date of the positive test if you did not have any symptoms.



Are there any other ways to have the vaccine if you do not like injections?

No, the only way to have the vaccine is by having an injection.



There is more easy read information about the coronavirus vaccines on www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources

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