

Frequently Asked Questions – COVID-19 Vaccine

Why is Vaccination against COVID-19 recommended?

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause millions of infections and deaths around the world. A Vaccine to prevent COVID-19 is the most effective way to control the pandemic. Additional information can be found here: [The COVID-19 vaccine: Important information \(publichealthscotland.scot\)](https://publichealthscotland.scot/publications/2020-12-11-the-covid-19-vaccine-important-information/).

Why are Health Care Worker's classed as a priority group to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine?

HCW's have a higher exposure to COVID-19 infection and as well as risk to themselves this can be a risk to their friends, families, colleagues and vulnerable patients. Receiving the COVID-19 is the best way to protect yourself, your family and the NHS.

When will I be offered a Vaccine?

Vaccine is being prioritised to, Care Home Staff and Residents and Health & Social Care staff.

How do I book a vaccine?

Details for how you can book your vaccine is available in the 11 December 2020 Covid-19 daily brief. ARI clinics be booked using this link: [NHS Grampian Covid Vaccination Appointments Request Form - ARI Campus \(bit.ly\)](https://nhs.uk/grampian/covid-19/vaccination/appointments/request-form-ari-campus) and additional clinics and information is available here: [Covid-19 \(nhsgrampian.org\)](https://nhs.uk/grampian/covid-19)

Vaccination will also be available by peer to peer vaccinators in your ward. If your ward is running a peer to peer vaccination programme, please try to receive your vaccines via your local peer to peer vaccinator. This will ensure that bookable appointments are provided to those health & social care staff who cannot access a peer to peer vaccinator.

When should this vaccine not be given?

- If you are allergic to the active substance or any of the other ingredients of this vaccine
- If you had any problems following previous administration of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT6B2 such as allergic reaction or breathing problems
- If you are pregnant or planning to get pregnant in the next 3 months
- If you are breastfeeding
- If you have had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 28 days
- If you have had an influenza vaccine in the past 7 days
- If it's been less than 21 days since your first dose of this vaccine

- If you have severe illness with high fever*
- a bleeding problem, bruise easily or use a medicine to inhibit blood clotting

*mild fever or upper airway infection, like a cold, are not reasons to delay vaccination)

How will I know if I have had an allergic reaction to vaccine?

Signs of an allergic reaction may include itchy skin rash, shortness of breath and swelling of the face or tongue.

What do I do if I have an allergic reaction?

Contact your doctor or healthcare professional immediately or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you have an allergic reaction. It can be life-threatening.

What if I'm taking other medications, can I still receive the vaccine?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are using, have recently used or might use any other medicines or have recently received any other vaccine.

Why can't women who are pregnant, planning to get pregnant or breastfeeding receive the vaccine?

There is currently limited data available on the use of this vaccine in pregnant women. If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before you receive this vaccine. As a precaution, you should avoid becoming pregnant until at least 2 months after the vaccine.

Can I have the vaccine if I am immunosuppressed including HIV infection?

Individuals who have immunosuppression including HIV infection can receive the COVID-19 vaccine. It is important to beware that individuals who are immunosuppressed may not achieve the same level of immunity as others.

Can I have the Vaccine if I have had COVID-19 infection or suffering from Long Covid?

There is no evidence of any safety concerns with vaccination of individuals who have a past history of COVID-19 infection. Vaccination should be postponed for those with confirmed infection until clinical recovery, or at least 4 weeks from onset of symptoms or four weeks from the first PCR positive specimen in those who are asymptomatic.

I receive a weekly test for COVID-19 at work. Will the vaccine interfere with the

test result?

Current guidance indicates that receiving the COVID-19 vaccine will not impact test results.

Can I drive or operate machinery after receiving my vaccination?

COVID-19 Vaccine has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines. However, some of the effects may temporarily affect the ability to drive or use machines. Do not drive or operate machinery for at least 15 minutes and you are sure that you are not affected.

How many doses are required in the initial series?

You will receive 2 injections, given between 21-28 days apart.

Will I need any further doses?

Booster doses are not yet recommended because the need for and timing for boosters has not yet been determined.

If I develop COVID-19 symptoms after the 1st dose should I have a test?

Common side effects following the COVID-19 vaccines are much less serious than developing COVID-19 or complications associated with COVID-19, and they usually go away within a few days. It's quite common to develop a fever after a vaccination. This normally happens within 48 hours of the vaccination and usually goes away within 48 hours.

You do not need to self-isolate or book a COVID-19 test unless you have other COVID-19 symptoms or:

- you have been told by NHS Test and Protect, or your occupational health team, that you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- you live with someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19
- you live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19.

If the fever starts more than 48 hours after the vaccination or lasts longer than 48 hours, you should self-isolate and book a COVID-19 test. This can be done at

<https://www.nhsgrampian.org/covid-19/information-for-nhs-grampian-staff/subpages/covid-19-testing/staff-covid-19-testing/>

If I receive this COVID-19 Vaccine can I switch to a different product?

If you receive one dose of COVID-19 Vaccine, it is currently recommended that you should receive a second dose of the same vaccine no earlier than 21 days later to complete the vaccination series. However, when other vaccines are licensed and we have more information, this guidance may change.

How long will it take to provide protection against COVID-19?

Protection against COVID-19 disease may not be effective until at least 7 days after the second dose.

It's important to remember that after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, you must continue following FACTS guidance as you potentially can still catch or spread COVID-19:

FACE COVERINGS

AVOID CROWDS

CLEAN HANDS

TWO METRES

SELF-ISOLATE

What are the common side effects of the vaccine?

Some people may experience side effects after the vaccine. These are usually mild and may include:

- tenderness, swelling and/or redness at the injection site
- headache, muscle ache
- feeling tired
- fever (temperature above 37.8°C).

A less common side effect is swelling of the glands. This starts a few days after the vaccine and may last for up to two weeks. This is to be expected and is a sign of the immune system responding to the vaccine. If you feel uncomfortable, take paracetamol. Make sure you take paracetamol as directed on the label or leaflet.

These common side effects are much less serious than developing COVID-19 or complications associated with COVID-19, and they usually go away within a few days.

If I get side effects where do I report them?

Studies of a new vaccine do not stop once it has been authorised for use. Ongoing studies (phase IV) happen after the vaccine has been licensed and introduced into use

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

You should also report side effects directly via the Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or AppleApp Store and include the vaccine brand and batch/Lot number if available.

By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this vaccine.

I have more questions about the vaccine. Who should I contact?

Additional information is available here for Health Care Workers: [Healthcare worker COVID-19 resources - Downloads - Public Health Scotland](#).

Social Care workers can find information here:

[Social care worker COVID-19 resources - Downloads - Public Health Scotland](#)

NHS Inform Information is located at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine | NHS inform](#).

If you have any further questions on the use of COVID-19 Vaccine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Alternatively, OHS can be contacted at gram.ohs@nhs.scot