

FAQs COVID-19 Vaccine.

What should I do if I am interested in having the vaccine?

If you are interested in the Covid-19 vaccine, please contact your GP Surgery to register your interest onto the system and once it is your turn the organising team or GP Surgery will book your appointments.

How many kinds of vaccinations are there?

There are over 100 COVID-19 vaccine candidates under development.

The main current vaccines are [Oxford \(AstraZeneca\)](#) and [Pfizer-BioNTech](#)

Company	Type	Doses	How effective*	Storage
 Oxford Uni- AstraZeneca	Viral vector (genetically modified virus)	x2 	62-90%	Regular fridge temperature
 Moderna	RNA (part of virus genetic code)	x2 	95%	-20C up to 6 months
 Pfizer- BioNTech	RNA	x2 	95%	-70C
 Gamaleya (Sputnik V)	Viral vector	x2 	92%	Regular fridge temperature (in dry form)

*preliminary phase three results, not yet peer-reviewed

Source: Respective companies, WHO

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Which vaccine has currently been approved for use in the UK?

Pfizer- BioNTech was approved for use in the UK on the 2/12/2020.

How does the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine work?

RNA vaccines work by introducing an mRNA sequence (the molecule which tells cells what to build) which is coded for a disease specific antigen, once produced within the body, the antigen is recognised by the immune system, preparing it to fight the real thing.

***For more info visit:** <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

What warnings and precautions are there about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine?

Flu Vaccine

Please ensure waiting over 1 week between taking the Flu Vaccine and taking the COVID- 19 Vaccine.

Anaphylaxis

Any person with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to a vaccine, medicine or food should not receive the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2. A second dose of the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 should not be given to those who have experienced anaphylaxis to the first dose of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2. As with all injectable vaccines, appropriate medical treatment and supervision should always be readily available in case of a rare anaphylactic event following the administration of the vaccine.

Warfarin

Patients on warfarin with supra-therapeutic INR should wait until their INR is <4.0

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Acute severe febrile illness

The administration of COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 should be postponed in individuals suffering from acute severe febrile illness.

Availability

Please make sure you are available to take the second dose after 21 days of the administration of the first dose.

*For more info visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

What are the known adverse reactions to the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine?

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short term, and not everyone gets them. Even if you do have symptoms after the first dose, you still need to have the second dose. Although you may get some protection from the first dose, having the second dose will give you the best protection against the virus.

- Injection-site pain
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Myalgia
- Chills
- Arthralgia
- Pyrexia

*For more info visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

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What should I do if I want talk about the influence of the vaccine with my pre-existing health conditions with a clinician?

If you are concerned, please go on to:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

If you still have concerns please contact your GP and book in an appointment.

If I have already had COVID-19 before do I still need to take the Vaccine/Do I still need 2 doses?

Most people who are infected with COVID-19 develop an immune response within the first few weeks after infection.

Research is still ongoing into how strong that protection is and how long it lasts. WHO is also looking into whether the strength and length of immune response depends on the type of infection a person has: without symptoms ('asymptomatic'), mild or severe. Even people without symptoms seem to develop an immune response.

Globally, data from seroprevalence studies suggests that less 10% of those studied have been infected, meaning that most of the world's population remains susceptible to this virus.

*For more info visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

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What exactly is in the Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine?

- This vaccine contains polyethylene glycol/macrogol (PEG) as part of ALC-0159.
- ALC-0315 = (4-hydroxybutyl) azanediy)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate)
- ALC-0159 = 2-[(polyethylene glycol)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide
- 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
- Cholesterol
- Potassium chloride
- Potassium dihydrogen phosphate
- Sodium chloride
- Disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate
- Sucrose
- Water for injections

*For more info visit: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19/information-for-uk-recipients-on-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccine>



What's in a vaccine?

