

COVID-19 Vaccine – Frequently Asked Questions

For the latest information on the community vaccination programme in Derby and Derbyshire, please see the bulletin we produce and publish [here](#).

Derby and Derbyshire – current most common questions

Who is currently in the priority list for the vaccine?

The full prioritisation list and further information can be found [here](#) and is as follows (in order of priority):

- Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
- All those 75 years of age and over
- All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
- All those 65 years of age and over. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- All those 60 years of age and over
- All those 55 years of age and over
- All those 50 years of age and over

Will I be covered after the first vaccination?

The first vaccination will give you partial protection but it is very important that you attend for your second vaccination as this will maximise your protection from the virus. For more information please go to the further information section below

I have seen social media or been told by my friends or family or people in my community that I shouldn't get a vaccination because it is unsafe or contains food products that are contrary to my religion or life style preferences.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has confirmed that the COVID-19 vaccines AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 are safe following extensive testing vaccine do not contain any components of animal origin. We are working with our communities across Derbyshire to spread the message that

getting the vaccine is incredibly important, that it is safe and that people should take up the invitation when they receive it.

Are there any side effects?

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, and not everyone gets them. These are important details which the MHRA always consider when assessing candidate vaccines for use. For the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, like lots of others, they have identified that some people might feel slightly unwell, but they report that no significant side effects have been observed in the over 43,000 people involved in trials. All patients will be provided with information on the vaccine they have received, how to look out for any side effects, and what to do if they do occur, including reporting them to the MHRA.

How is the vaccination programme in Derbyshire being rolled out?

The vaccination programme in Derbyshire is being rolled out in a phased way so some areas will have started before others. This is the same for other areas across the whole country. Each vaccination site has been selected based on very strict rules for patient safety including having enough space for the 2 metre distancing rules at all times.

We are constantly monitoring our sites and looking for further opportunities to deliver vaccinations in the community. You can find the latest information on the Joined up Care Derbyshire website [here](#).

How is Derbyshire doing with the rollout?

Derbyshire is working through the priority groups as quickly as possible to ensure that everyone who is eligible for a vaccination receives one as quickly as possible. Those areas who started later have caught up so the number of people vaccinated in the priority groups so far is roughly equal across the county. So far the rate of vaccinations delivered across our county compares very favourably and we are working as hard as we can to ensure that we reach every milestone date for the completion of vaccinations for each group or cohort set by the government.

How will I be told when it is my turn to be vaccinated?

We are working through each group or cohort as quickly as possible and we are in the process of starting the 70 and over groups. We must complete the first four groups by 15 February. Depending on where you are invited and what grouping you are in

there may be a different way of being invited. You will either be contacted by letter, SMS text, email or phone call.

Why are my neighbours, friends and families getting their vaccination before me?

The roll out of the vaccination is different across the country and within Derbyshire. You will be invited for vaccination when your local area reaches your vaccination grouping or cohort. These groupings are decided nationally by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. Your friends and neighbours could be in a different grouping to you or their area is at a different stage in vaccinating. We will get to you in turn and request that you don't call your GP as they are very busy vaccinating people and looking after patients not needing a vaccination. Please bear with us and we will be in touch with you.

I have heard that people in their 30's, 40's and 50's have been seen in vaccination queues - is this true?

Yes. When attending a vaccination appointment you may see people below the age of those in the current priority groups of 70 years and older. These will be health and social care workers or care workers who are also in a priority group. We check everyone's eligibility so you can be sure that anyone receiving a vaccination will be entitled to it.

Can pregnant women have the Pfizer/BioNTech or Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines?

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has amended its previous precautionary advice on Covid-19 vaccines and pregnancy or breastfeeding. The new advice sets out that vaccination with either vaccine in pregnancy should be considered where the risk of exposure SARS-CoV2 infection is high and cannot be avoided, or where the woman has underlying conditions that place her at very high risk of serious complications of Covid-19, and the risks and benefits of vaccination should be discussed.

I am housebound – how does the process work and when will I be tested?

A patient is deemed to be housebound when they are unable to leave their home environment through a physical and/or psychological illness. A team of vaccinators will be delivering vaccinations to the housebound and those who are care home residents. The roving team are made up of healthcare staff, GPs and nurses.

Those who are housebound will have been identified by their registered GP and will have been written to explaining they are classed as housebound for the purposes of receiving the vaccination. The roving team or GP will then call to arrange an appointment.

You will only be vaccinated at home if you have been considered housebound by your GP. This is to ensure that those in vulnerable groups or who are geographically or socially isolated can access community vaccination services as soon as possible..

A team of two roving team staff will be carrying out your appointment. They will have identification to prove they are healthcare professionals. You will receive a telephone call before the appointment to confirm they will be visiting you.

All roving team staff will be wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE) to keep themselves and you safe.

If possible you should wear a face mask during the short appointment.

You can prepare by making sure you wear light clothing that is easily accessible for administering a vaccine into the upper arm. Please also open your window to increase ventilation within your home and do tell the team of any access issues to your property.

The roving team are only be allowed to work if they are symptom free and they will be following social distancing guidelines where possible as well as wearing full personal Protective equipment (PPE).

Is there anything I should watch out for when the roving team call to may home to vaccinate me?

In other part of the country we have seen scams taking place so it is important to be aware of the following:



Will people who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable be allowed to receive a vaccination from the roving team?

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you will be asked to access your vaccination from one of the Local Vaccination Services. These sites have been deemed to be Covid-19 secure venues. If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you will be sent an invitation when it is your turn to be vaccinated.

What else do I need to know about my appointment

In Derby and Derbyshire you will be invited to attend an appointment at one of the following:

- your local Primary Care Network Vaccination site (this is a group of local GPs working together and they have agreed which of the GP surgeries in each group or network has the best location for social distancing and other reasons)
- Vaccination Centre which for our county is the Derby Arena
- Hospital Hub (located at Derby Royal and Chesterfield Royal hospitals)
- Community pharmacy site in locations across the county

Please note: if you are a care home resident or are housebound you will be offered a vaccination in the place you call home

Attending your vaccination appointment

People who are eligible for appointments will receive letters from the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Booking Service, telling you how you can book an appointment.

You may also be contacted by your local GP practice through SMS text or phone call. Please do not get contact your GP practice or local hospital if you haven't received an invitation yet you will be contacted.

You can expect each vaccination appointment to take around 30 minutes.

- If you have been sent an invitation letter or text message, please bring this with you.
- If you do not have an invitation, bring evidence of your age, staff identification (for frontline healthcare workers) or evidence that you are officially considered to be extremely clinically vulnerable.

Please note we will need your NHS number in order to update your record. If you do not bring your letter or text we can still update your records but it will take us longer. You are asked to attend your appointment alone unless you require a nominated carer for medical reasons. Please do not bring any other family members or friends into the vaccination centre as they will not be offered a vaccination or be able to wait inside the centre. If you come with someone they will have to wait outside.

You should arrive no more than five minutes before your appointment to avoid queues developing. We know that this can be difficult to manage especially if you are using public transport but we have to do all we can to keep our vaccination sites safe. We also ask that patients do not bring bags or rucksacks into the vaccination venue as this is an infection control risk and also can be a hazard. They should be left at home or in the car.

Although we have measures in place to keep you and our staff safe, please wear a face covering when attending your appointment. It is also advisable to wear loose clothing as the vaccination is given in your upper arm.

Toilets and disabled facilities are available on site. You may wish to bring a drink with you as no refreshments will be provided when attending your appointment.

Do not attend if you have tested positive for COVID-19 28 days prior to your appointment or if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Symptoms include a new persistent cough, fever or high temperature, loss of taste and/or loss of smell.

What will happen when I go for my vaccination?

On arrival, you will be checked-in by a member of staff and you will be asked the following questions:

- your invitation letter with your NHS number
- proof of your date of birth
- proof of your postcode
- to confirm you have no symptoms of COVID-19
- to confirm that you have not had a flu jab in the last 7 days.

You will then have a basic health check, which includes questions about any allergies you have and any medication you are currently taking.

You will be asked to give your consent confirming you are having the vaccine.

You will then be given the vaccination. This is given via a needle into your non-dominant arm/shoulder and will feel no more than a quick sharp scratch (similar to a flu jab).

After you have been vaccinated, you will be given advice about the follow-up dose you need to have to give you maximum protection against the virus.

You may be asked to wait for 15 minutes before you leave the centre so we can be sure you are ok before you travel. It is advised that you do not drive for at least 15 minutes after the vaccination.

Additional sources of information

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

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

JVCI Prioritisation

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020>

National booking system

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

Dr Van-Tam Briefing on COVID-19 Vaccine

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p090c7wr>

Public Health England – Green Book (published 27/11/20)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a>

This chapter includes information on:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines.
- the dosage and schedule for the UK.
- recommendations for the use of the vaccine.

This document was updated on 1 February 2021.

Information in this document has been provided by NHS England and NHS Improvement, the Department of Health and Social Care and other NHS organisations and whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, you will appreciate that the situation relating to the COVID-19 vaccination programme can change rapidly and so neither Joined Up Care Derbyshire, nor its employees or agents can be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions, whether caused by negligence or otherwise as it is not deliberate. All information has been provided in good faith and may be subject to later revision. Where links are provided to external content, Joined Up Care Derbyshire holds no responsibility for such content or accuracy