

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme - your questions answered

Should I get the vaccination if I have already had Covid?

Yes, if you are invited to have your vaccination, you should attend. The decision on who gets the vaccine first follows advice from the **Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)**.

Is the Covid vaccine safe?

Any approved Coronavirus vaccine must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through. Vaccines will only be used if they are approved by the MHRA. You can find out more about the vaccine approval process

here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HPpWelo1ro&feature=emb_title

So far, thousands of people have been given a Covid-19 vaccine and reports of serious side effects, such as allergic reactions, have been very rare. No long-term complications have been reported.

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

This site also includes information on ingredients and effectiveness of the vaccinations.

When can I get the Covid-19 vaccine?

You will be contacted when it's your turn to get the Covid-19 vaccine. Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine before then.

You just need to make sure that you are registered with a local GP and your contact details are up to date. If you are not registered with a GP, there are instructions on how to do so here: [How to register with a GP surgery - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/).

In some parts of the county, people aged 70+ are now being called for their vaccinations. But those aged 80+, care home residents and health and care staff are still being prioritised.

What if I am housebound?

You will be contacted by your local GP-led vaccination centre to arrange for a district nurse to give you your vaccination at home.

Are carers able to get a Covid-19 vaccination?

If you are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person, please let your GP know. If you are registered as a carer with your GP, you will be invited for your vaccination as part of priority group 6 alongside adults aged 16-65+ with underlying health conditions.

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Why do I have to wait for my vaccination?

If you have not yet been approached about having the Covid-19 vaccination, please read the information on why you are being asked to wait: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-why-you-are-being-asked-to-wait>

How will I be contacted?

You will be contacted by the NHS when it is your turn for a vaccination.

You may get a text, phone call or a letter. You do not need to have a mobile phone or use the internet to be contacted for your Covid-19 jab.

If you work in health and social care, you may hear directly from your employer - in the same way you would for your annual flu jab.

You will never be asked to pay for your Covid-19 vaccine.

Coronavirus vaccines are free and the NHS will never ask for any money or your bank details.

Where can I get my Covid-19 vaccine?

In our area the vaccine is being given from local vaccination sites run by **GP's**, **some pharmacies** and several **large-scale vaccination centres**. Some people at the very start of the programme, and staff, will have received their first dose at a hospital. Teams are also now visiting local care homes to vaccinate residents and staff.

Large-scale vaccination centres

You may receive an invitation to book an appointment at a large-scale vaccination centre. But if you are unable or don't want to go there, you can choose to wait.

Your GP-led service will be in touch soon to invite you to an appointment closer to home.

Local vaccination services

There are now GP-led local vaccination services covering all of Hertfordshire, and many more local residents are being contacted to book their appointments.

I have an appointment for the vaccine, but I can't get there easily. What should I do?

If you have been invited to receive your COVID-19 vaccination, but are unable to make your own transport arrangements, East of England Ambulance Service has launched a new information service in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, East and North Herts CCG and Herts Valleys CCG to help people quickly find the right support to get them to their appointment.

From 1st February, you can call **0300 790 6254 (Monday-Saturday, 9am-5pm)** to ask for support to get to your appointment. Please only call if you have received an invite, date and time to have your vaccination.