

Your vaccination questions answered

We understand some people have concerns about the Covid-19 vaccine. Here, we have answered some of the most frequently asked questions from the community. For further information visit:

www.doncasterccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccine

1. Is the vaccine safe?

Yes, the UK vaccinations have been rigorously tested and meet strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Millions of people have now 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.

2. Do I have to pay for the vaccine?

No, the vaccine is free and you do not need to be registered with a GP to receive it.

3. I've heard conspiracy theories about the vaccine and I'm concerned

Conspiracy theories about the vaccine, including rumours that the vaccine has tracking device in it or that it alters your DNA, are all false. Vaccinations are a well-recognised way of preventing disease. There is no tracking chip in the vaccine and it will not alter your DNA.

4. Is the vaccine safe for the BAME community?

Yes, the vaccine is safe for all members of the BAME community and is particularly important as we know individuals from the BAME community are more susceptible to illness with Covid-19.

5. Why should I have the vaccine?

Vaccination protects not only yourself but your family and the community around you and will play a crucial part in getting life back to normal, which we all want. You will need two doses of the vaccine to get the best long-term protection from the virus, although you will have a significant level of protection after you received the first dose. However, it is important that you continue to follow national restrictions and social distancing guidance.

6. Will the vaccines work with new strains of coronavirus?

There is no evidence currently that new strains are resistant to the vaccines we have, so we are continuing to vaccinate people as normal.

7. I have heard the vaccine affects fertility – is this true?

There is no evidence to suggest Covid-19 vaccinations affect fertility in men or women.

8. Can I choose which vaccine I have?

Two vaccines are currently available in the UK: Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca. Both have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. Supplies are limited and so you will be given whichever vaccine is available at the site you visit.

9. Does the vaccine contain animal or human content?

There are no meat derivatives or porcine products, including gelatine, in the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or AstraZeneca vaccine. Both are suitable for Muslims, Vegetarians and Vegans. Some people also believe the vaccine contains human product - this is not true. All ingredients are published in healthcare information on the MHRA's website.

10. Will the vaccine alter my DNA or change my behaviour?

No. The vaccines contain messenger RNA (mRNA) which tells your cells to make the spike protein found on coronavirus. When the immune system recognises this protein it builds an immune response by developing antibodies to fight future infection. The mRNA can not access or change your DNA and will not change your behaviour.

11. Do I need an NHS number to have a vaccination?

It is helpful to have an NHS number, but you can still have a vaccination without it.

LET'S GET VACCINATED



"I was so happy to have my vaccination as it is one step closer to getting back to normal life where I will soon be able to spend time with my family again."

Claris Brown, 83, from Doncaster, receiving the COVID-19 vaccine

www.doncasterccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccine

CORONAVIRUS
PROTECT YOURSELF & OTHERS

NHS

 Doncaster
Council

Let's Do it FOR DONCASTER

The Covid-19 vaccination programme – the biggest in NHS history – is off to a strong start with millions of doses already given to some of the country's most vulnerable people.

Vaccines are being given to those most at high risk of complications should they catch the virus, which is people aged over 65, care home residents and staff, and those who are clinically vulnerable.

These people, along with frontline health and care staff, are in priority groups 1-6, and a national target has been set to have all these individuals vaccinated by the summer.

As the vaccination programme is rolled out and more vaccines are delivered, other priority groups will be invited.

The government has pledged to vaccinate all adults in England by September 2021.

How will I be contacted about my vaccine?

You will either be contacted by the NHS national booking system or your local GP practice when it is your turn to be vaccinated – there is no need to call your doctor about the jab.

Where are the vaccination centres?

You may be offered a local vaccination site, a regional mass vaccination venue or a pharmacy, so you can access a vaccination quicker. Please don't worry if you can't get to the first place if it's not suitable - you will be offered other ways to get a jab.

Please do take up the opportunity to be vaccinated to help protect your health and the health of those around you.

For more information about the Doncaster vaccination programme please visit: www.doncasterccg.nhs.uk

Further guidance on vaccination for Muslim communities can be found at: mcb.org.uk/coronavirus

What will happen at my vaccination appointment?

When you attend your first vaccine appointment, please follow safety guidance as you travel and wear a face covering once you arrive for your jab.

When you've had the first injection, it is very important that you continue to follow guidance, wear a mask when out, maintain social distancing and always wash your hands often.

You will be contacted again a few weeks later to book your second dose injection, although the first dose will give you good protection, you need the second dose to get longer lasting protection.

You will receive a record card after your first jab. Keep your card safe and make sure you go to your second appointment once booked to get your second injection.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Very common side effects include:

- your arm feeling heavy or sore where you had the injection
- feeling achy or like you've got the flu
- feeling tired
- having a headache

If you feel feverish (like you're very hot or very cold) you should:

- rest
- take some paracetamol
- feel better in less than a week

Do I need the COVID-19 vaccine if I've had the flu vaccine?

It's important to have the flu vaccine (jab) and the coronavirus vaccine. You should wait one week after you've had your flu vaccine (jab) before you get the coronavirus vaccine.

Allergies

If you have serious allergies, you should check with your doctor if it is safe for you to get the vaccine. You might have a serious allergy if you carry an EpiPen.

Pregnant or think you may be?

Some women who are pregnant or breastfeeding may have the vaccine. Some may wait until after they have had their baby. Talk to your GP or midwife about it.

Problems with your immune system?

The vaccine is safe if you have problems with your immune system (this is when your body finds it hard to fight infections).

Vaccination factfile

The Covid-19 vaccine is safe and effective for all members of the community – the vaccines have been rigorously tested and safety was paramount in the considerations undertaken by the regulator MRHA before issuing a licence for these vaccines to be used.

So far, millions of people in the UK from all ethnic backgrounds have been given a COVID vaccine, and reports of serious side effects, such as allergic reactions, have been very rare. No long-term complications have been reported.

The Vaccines approved for use in the UK are Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca. Both require a second dose up to 12 weeks after the first vaccination to achieve long-term protection from the virus

Even after being vaccinated, there is a chance coronavirus can be spread, it is still vital to continue following the guidance in order to protect others and stay safe.