



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

# What to expect from the Coronavirus vaccination

**The people most at risk of getting really ill if they caught the virus will be given the vaccine first, this applies to people in the community and people in prison.**

The vaccine had to be approved by health authorities before it can be given to people and is therefore safe to use to help protect you from coronavirus.

Everyone must receive two doses of the vaccine for it to work properly and keep you safe.

## What do I do next?

The date and time of your appointment will be provided by your healthcare team. The appointment for your second dose will be between 3 and 12 weeks later. It is important to have both doses of the vaccine to give you the best protection.

## What should I do if I am not well when it is my next appointment?

If you are unwell, it is better to wait until you have recovered to have your vaccine, but you should try to have it as soon as possible.

You should not attend a vaccine appointment if you are self-isolating, waiting for a COVID-19 test or unsure if you are fit and well. You should not be vaccinated within 4 weeks of a positive test

## The most important symptoms of COVID-19 are any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell

## Can I catch COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No you can't.

## What are the side effects?

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and won't last long, and not everyone gets them.

### Common side effects include:

- having a painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm where you had your injection. This tends to be worst around 1-2 days after the vaccine
- feeling tired
- headache
- general aches, or mild flu like symptoms

You may get a mild fever a day or two after the vaccination, if you have any other Coronavirus symptoms or your fever lasts longer, stay in your room and speak to a member of staff.

These symptoms normally last less than a week. If your symptoms seem to get worse or if you are concerned, speak to your healthcare team.

## Will the vaccine protect me?

The approved COVID-19 vaccine being used has been tested in more than 20,000 people and has shown it reduces the chance of you suffering from the COVID-19 virus.

It may take up to three weeks for your body to build up some protection from the first dose of the vaccine.

Like all medicines, no vaccine provides complete protection, so you should continue to help to protect yourself and others by following government guidelines, maintaining social distancing and washing your hands regularly, sneezing or coughing into a tissue and throwing it away, wearing a face covering and regularly washing your hands.

## Can I give COVID-19 to anyone, now I have had the vaccine?

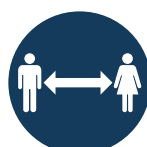
The vaccine will reduce the chance of you suffering and dying from the virus but we do not yet know if it will stop you from catching and passing it on. So, it is still important to follow the guidance in your prison to protect those around you.



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**