



HM Prison &  
Probation Service

# What you need to know about the Coronavirus vaccine

**Women's version**



**Coronavirus is a type of illness that makes people feel poorly.**

**People who have coronavirus may:**

- Have a sore throat
- Have a high temperature
- Have a cough
- Find it more difficult to breathe than normal
- Lose their smell or taste

To stop people getting Coronavirus people called scientists have made a vaccine.

A scientist is a person who tried to understand how our world and other things work.

**What is a vaccine?**

- A vaccine helps your body to make antibodies.
- Your body makes antibodies when it fights an infection, like Coronavirus.
- The vaccine does not give you Coronavirus. It teaches your body to fight the virus.



### **Who will get the vaccine?**

Older people are at risk of being really ill if they get Coronavirus so they will be offered the vaccine first.

It will take some time for all the groups of people to be asked if they want the vaccine so you need to be patient.

### **Can I have the vaccine if I am pregnant?**

There is no evidence that it is not safe to have the vaccine if you are pregnant, but the scientists want to test it a bit more before it is offered to all pregnant women.

You may still be able to have the vaccine if you are pregnant and have other health conditions that mean you would get very ill if you caught Coronavirus.

You can speak to healthcare about this if it applies to you and you are worried about this.

### **Can I have the vaccine if I am breastfeeding?**

Yes, you can have the vaccination if you are breastfeeding.

### **How will I know about the vaccine?**

When it is your turn to be offered the vaccine, you will be contacted by the prison healthcare team.

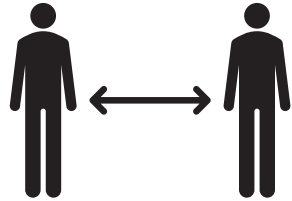
The vaccine will make it less likely that you will get Coronavirus.

The vaccine will be given to you in an injection in your arm by prison healthcare.

You will have one injection and then you will need to have another one 3 to 12 weeks later.

Some people might have a sore arm, sore muscles or a slight temperature after the injection. This is because the injection is new to your body.

If you don't feel well you can tell a member of staff who will check if you are ok.



The vaccine cannot stop you from getting Coronavirus. But it can stop you from suffering serious complications if you catch it.

**We do not know if the vaccine will stop you from passing Coronavirus on to other people, so you must continue to:**

- Keep 2 metres away from people
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue and throw it away
- Wear a face covering
- Regularly wash your hands



After having a vaccination your body gets better at fighting that illness, without you having to get poorly first.

Unlike lots of medicines, which can treat or cure diseases, vaccines stop them without you getting poorly.

There are currently two vaccines that are ready to give to people and doctors and scientists say the vaccines are safe to use.

Doctors and scientists say that if people have the vaccine, less people will get ill from Coronavirus.

### **Is the vaccine safe?**

All vaccines used in the UK have to meet strict safety rules. There have been lots of trials and safety checks which had to happen before the vaccine could be approved for use.

