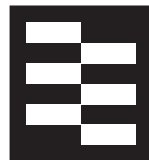




HM Prison &
Probation Service

Probation
Service



Covid-19 Vaccination

Information for people living in
Approved Premises



July 2021

Your questions answered



There has been a lot of information in the news about vaccinations to protect against a virus called Coronavirus / Covid-19.

Having questions about vaccines is very normal – and it's okay to ask questions. Inside this booklet are real questions answered by healthcare staff.

This guide will help you understand more about the vaccination programme in your Approved Premises.

Remember it is okay to ask questions.

1. Taking the vaccine

What is a vaccine and how does it work?

A vaccine is a treatment developed by scientists which is given by means of an injection to enable your body to develop antibodies. Covid-19 vaccines help our bodies develop immunity to the virus that causes Covid-19 without us having to get the illness.

How will I know when I can get the vaccine?

As well as your doctor contacting you by letter, you may also receive a text from NHS telling you you're eligible. Alternatively you can check the NHS website, which displays the age limit currently eligible for vaccination.

What's inside the vaccine? Is the vaccine changing DNA?

The vaccines do not alter your DNA. They comprise mRNA (Messenger Ribonucleic Acid) giving the body instructions on how to make proteins on the surface of the virus. This does

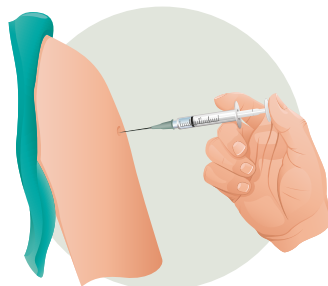
not alter your DNA but teaches your body an immune response to Covid-19 in case you are exposed.

What is the process of getting the jab like?

At your appointment you will be asked to sit down and roll up your sleeve. The healthcare professional will ask you a few questions. They will then administer the vaccination to your upper arm.

Following the initial vaccination, you will receive a second dose of the same vaccination 12 weeks later?

You will be informed when you are eligible for your second dose when you receive the first dose.



What vaccine are we getting?

The vaccine you are given will be dependent on the availability in your local area. You could be given Astrazeneca (often called the Oxford vaccine), the Moderna vaccine, or the Pfizer vaccine.

Does the Covid-19 vaccine work?

Yes, the vaccine is highly effective, but to get full protection people need to come back for the second dose – this is important. Full protection kicks in around a week or two after that second dose, which is why it is also important to attend your second appointment when invited.

Do I need a vaccination if I have had Covid-19?

Yes, you still need the vaccine even if you have had Covid-19. Reinfection is still possible if you have had it once, and experts do not know how long someone is immune from getting sick again. You will need to wait 28 days from your positive Covid-19 test result before you can receive your vaccination.

Will the vaccine make me test positive for Covid-19 or give me Covid-19?

The vaccine does not contain any part of the Covid-19 virus (dead or alive) but comprises mRNA, which gives instructions to your cells on how to make a “spike protein”. You cannot catch Covid-19 from the vaccine.

Why is it important to take the vaccine?

It helps protect you and others from the Covid-19 virus. Vaccines are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases. By taking the vaccine you could save a life.

If I get vaccinated, do I still need a Covid-19 test and still be required to isolate if I have symptoms?

Yes, we will continue to isolate and test people who become symptomatic for the time being. Even though the Covid-19 vaccines are looking promising in preventing people from getting seriously sick or dying, they won't provide 100% protection.

2. Side effects & safety

What are the side effects of getting the vaccine?

Like all medicines, this vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Some possible side effects may be tenderness, pain, warmth, itching or bruising where the injection is given, generally feeling unwell, feeling tired (fatigue), chills or feeling feverish, headache, feeling sick (nausea), joint pain or muscle ache. The vaccine will not make you sterile, however there is evidence that catching the Covid-19 virus could.

How long do the side effects last for after having the vaccine?

In clinical studies with the vaccine, most side effects were mild to moderate in nature and resolved within a few days.

Is the vaccine safe for ethnic minorities?

The vaccines available have all been tested with ethnic minority groups. For the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine 10.1% of trial recipients were Black

and 3.5% Asian. There is no evidence either of the vaccines will work differently in different ethnic groups. All vaccines have been shown to be safe and offer high levels of protection, and they have been given regulatory approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) following tests on safety and efficacy.

How has the vaccine been produced so fast?

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) follows international standards of safety. They conduct 'rolling reviews' of data from vaccine trials. This means rather than waiting until the end of the clinical trial to assess the data, experts are assessing it instead on a rolling basis during the trial, which has helped speed up the approval process.

3. Covid vaccines in APs

How will I prove I have been vaccinated?

When you have had the vaccine, your medical records will be updated and can be used as evidence to outside services of your vaccination status. You will also be given a vaccination card showing when you had your first dose of the vaccine.



4. Covid after vaccination

How long does the vaccine last for? If you have had the vaccine, do you have to get it again?

The vaccines are expected to work for at least a year – if not longer. This will be constantly monitored.

Do I still need to wear a mask if I have been vaccinated?

You should follow the current guidelines on this.

Can you catch Covid-19

from a vaccinated person and is it dangerous for a vaccinated person to come into contact with an infection person or persons?

It's possible, but quite unlikely, to catch Covid-19 from a vaccinated person. No vaccine is ever 100% effective and until everyone has received 2 doses of the vaccination, they are still able to contract the virus. However, the more people that are vaccinated, the less likely this will be.

Is the vaccine slowing things down yet?

Yes, there is evidence of this. The latest information is available at the Coronavirus Downing Street press conferences.

If you have had the Covid-19 vaccine, can you get Covid again?

As above, no vaccine is 100% effective and there will be a very small percentage of people who may be reinfected with Covid-19 following vaccination. However, the vaccine gives a high

percentage of protection against complications and is very effective at preventing people becoming seriously unwell if they are infected after being vaccinated.

Will the vaccine eventually be made mandatory?

That's impossible to answer at this stage. It's unlikely, as it would be seen as an infringement on human rights to forcibly vaccinate anybody against their will. However, it may be a requirement for travel, entry into events, or even for future employment.



5. Women and vaccinations

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 your doctor 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.



6. Muslim faith and vaccinations

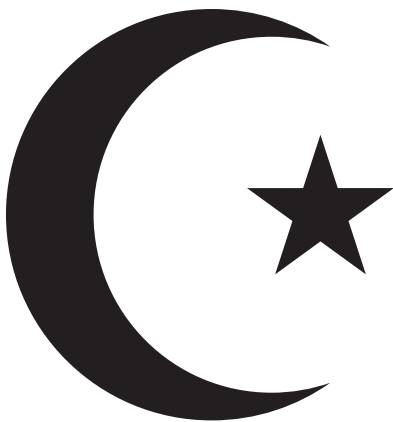


Is the vaccine Halal?

Yes the vaccine is Halal and follows the rules outlined in Shariah law. There are no animal products in the vaccine.

Can I have the vaccine during Ramadan?

Most Muslim scholars believe having the vaccine does not break the fast. They believe that having an injection is not the same as eating or drinking because it is seen as medicine, not food.



Covid-19 questions

What is Covid-19?

Covid-19 (coronavirus disease) is an infectious disease, which spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus that causes Covid-19 is able to spread when an infected person is in close contact with another person, but can also be transmitted on surfaces.

What are the signs / symptoms of Covid-19?

The main symptoms of Covid-19 are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

Most people with Covid-19 will have at least 1 of these symptoms. If you experience any of these symptoms, please inform staff immediately.

How can I protect myself from Covid-19?

Our best defence is to be vigilant and to follow the mantra 'hands, face, space'.

