# **Newcastle communities - vaccine information and communications**

### **Information pack for reference and distribution**

If you work in the community in Newcastle – as a clinician, volunteer or member of staff – and would like to help with communicating information about the vaccine (for example through videos in languages other than English, or distributing materials) please contact kate.vogelsang@nhs.net

**Please note:** New information is being developed all the time; this is the latest as of 11/2/21

*NHS England, PHE and other national resources*

Explainer videos and leaflets from PHE - <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/>

NHS England vaccination materials in languages other than English - <https://www.england.nhs.uk/london/our-work/covid-19-vaccine-communication-materials/>

Gov.uk vaccination programme documents including easyread documents - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

*Frequently asked questions – from NHS England*

***Most popular***

**What vaccine for COVID-19 is currently available?**

Both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines are now available. Both vaccines have been shown to be safe and offer high levels of protection, and have been given regulatory approval by the MHRA.

The Government has in principle secured access to seven different vaccine candidates, across four different vaccine types, totalling over 357 million doses. This includes:

* 40 million doses of the BioNTech/Pfizer vaccine
* 100m doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.
* 17 million doses of the Moderna vaccine, which has been approved by the MHRA but is not expected to be delivered to the NHS until Spring.

**Is the NHS confident the vaccines are safe?**

Yes. The NHS will not offer any Covid-19 vaccinations to the public until independent experts have signed off that it is safe to do so.

The MHRA, the official UK regulator, have said that both of these vaccines have good safety profiles and offer a high level of protection, and we have full confidence in their expert judgement and processes.

As with any medicine, vaccines are highly regulated products.

There are checks at every stage in the development and manufacturing process, and continued monitoring once it has been authorised and is being used in the wider population.

**Will the vaccines work with the new strains?**

There is no evidence currently that the new strains will be resistant to the vaccines we have, so we are continuing to vaccinate people as normal. Scientists are looking now in detail at the characteristics of the virus in relation to the vaccines. Viruses, such as the winter flu virus, often branch into different strains but these small variations rarely render vaccines ineffective.

**Why are you postponing second doses?**

The [UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-the-prioritisation-of-first-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines) a longer timeframe between first and second doses so that more people can get their first dose quickly, and because the evidence shows that one dose still offers a high level of protection after two weeks – 89% for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and 74% for the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine.

This decision will allow us to get the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives.

Getting both doses remains important so we would urge people to return for it at the right time.

**What about the Moderna vaccine? Why is this available in the USA but not here?**

The MHRA have now decided – after extensive assessment – that the Moderna vaccines are safe and effective. The Government provisionally ordered several million doses of this vaccine ahead of it being approved, but we don’t expect Moderna to be able to make these available until Spring 2021.

**Should people who have already had Covid or are suffering from ‘Long Covid’ get vaccinated?**

Yes, if they are in a priority group identified by JCVI. The MHRA have looked at this and decided that getting vaccinated is just as important for those who have already had Covid-19 as it is for those who haven’t, including those who have mild residual symptoms. Where people are suffering significant ongoing complications from Covid they should discuss whether or not to have a vaccine now with a clinician.

**Do I need to leave a space between having the flu vaccine and having the Covid vaccine?**

It is not essential to leave time between the flu and Covid vaccine but it is recommended that there should be a gap of a week.

We would always encourage anyone who is eligible but not yet taken up their flu jab to do so as soon as possible.

***Getting the vaccine***

**Can I get a Vaccine if I don’t have an NHS Number?**

Yes. People do not require an NHS number or GP registration to receive a vaccination and should never be denied one on this basis. Local leaders have been asked to take action to ensure this is not the case.

If someone does not have an NHS number but is within an eligible group, services have been advised to vaccinate now, record locally via a paper system, and ensure vaccination is formally documented later.

**Can I get a vaccine if I am a Refugee/Asylum Seeker?**

Yes. The Government have decided that there should be no charges for coronavirus (COVID-19) testing, treatment and vaccination.

Overseas visitors to England, including anyone living in the UK without permission, will not be charged for:

* testing for COVID-19 (even if the test shows they do not have COVID-19)
* treatment for COVID-19, including for a related problem called multisystem inflammatory syndrome that affects some children
* vaccination against COVID-19

No immigration checks are needed for overseas visitors if they are only tested, treated or vaccinated for COVID-19.

**Can people pick what vaccine they want?**

No. Any vaccines that the NHS will provide will have been approved because they pass the MHRA’s tests on safety and efficacy, so people should be assured that whatever vaccine they get, it is worth their while.

**Can I get one privately?**

No. Vaccinations are only available through the NHS. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, or a GP surgery local to you, to receive your vaccine. Remember, the vaccine is free of charge.

- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.

- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.

- The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.

- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to [Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/covid19) on 0300 123 2040. Where the victim is vulnerable, and particularly if you are worried that someone has or might come to your house, report it to the Police online or by calling 101.

 **Is one better than the other?**

The important point for any vaccine is whether the MHRA approves it for use – if it does then that means it’s a worthwhile vaccine to have and people should have it if they are eligible.

**Is one easier to deliver?**

All vaccines present different logistical requirements, but the NHS has been planning for all eventualities, and people should be assured that the vaccine they will be offered is available because it has been assessed and approved by experts as being safe and effective.

**Who is getting vaccinated now?**

Vaccinations in England started on 8 December, with Margaret Keenan becoming the first person to be vaccinated in Coventry.

In line with JCVI recommendations, the NHS is now rolling out vaccines to people aged 70 and over, people who are clinically extremely vulnerable, care home residents and staff, and frontline health and social care workers.

Our ambition, if supplies allow, is to have offered the vital first doses of vaccines to 100% of people in the above priority groups by the middle of February.

Figures on the number of people vaccinated are published weekly and can be found here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/healthcare>

**What happens with leftover doses at the end of the day?**

Vaccination services are under strict instructions to keep the number of wasted doses to an absolute minimum. Any spare vaccines due to missed or unfilled appointments, or the ability to draw additional full doses from a vial, should be used wherever possible.

This is primarily done through each service operating a reserve list of eligible people – including health and social care workers, but also members of the public in the JCVI priority groups currently being vaccinated – who can be called at short notice to receive a dose where otherwise it might be wasted.

**Why aren’t BAME groups being prioritised?**

There is clear evidence that certain Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups have higher rates of infection, and higher rates of serious disease and mortality. The reasons are multiple and complex.

What is clear is that certain health conditions are associated with increased risk of serious disease, and these health conditions are often overrepresented in certain Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups.

Prioritisation of people with underlying health conditions will also provide for greater vaccination of BAME communities who are disproportionately affected by such health conditions.

Tailored local implementation to promote good vaccine coverage in Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups will be the most important factor within a vaccine programme in reducing health inequalities in these groups.

The NHS will provide advice and information at every possible opportunity, including working closely with BAME communities, to support those receiving a vaccine and to anyone who has questions about the vaccination process.

Throughout the pandemic increasing attention has been given to reducing health inequalities and we have invested more than £4 million into research into Covid-19 and ethnic disparities so that we can go further.

***Vaccine safety and efficacy***

**Is the NHS confident the vaccine is safe?**

Yes. The NHS will not offer any Covid-19 vaccinations to the public until independent experts have signed off that it is safe to do so.

The MHRA, the official UK regulator, have said these vaccines are safe and highly effective, and we have full confidence in their expert judgement and processes.

As with any medicine, vaccines are highly regulated products.

There are checks at every stage in the development and manufacturing process, and continued monitoring once it has been authorised and is being used in the wider population.

The MHRA recommend that those with severe allergies to the ingredients of the vaccines should not receive them.

**Are there any side effects?**

These are important details which the MHRA always consider when assessing candidate vaccines for use.

For these vaccines, like lots of others, they have identified that some people might feel slightly unwell, but they report that no significant side effects have been observed in the tens of thousands of people involved in trials.

All patients will be provided with information on the vaccine they have received, how to look out for any side effects, and what to do if they do occur, including reporting them to the MHRA.

More information on possible side effects can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

**When will you publish vaccine ingredients?**

A detailed review of the vaccines and their ingredients have been provided by the MHRA and can be found at the following links:

For the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19>

For the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>

The British Islamic Medical Association have produced a helpful guide for the Muslim community which can be found at <https://britishima.org/pfizer-biontech-covid19-vaccine/>

**What about the allergic reactions that have been reported?**

These vaccines are safe and effective for the vast majority of people – they have been tested on tens of thousands of people and assessed by experts.

Any person with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to the ingredients contained in the vaccines should not receive them. A second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine should not be given to those who have experienced anaphylaxis to the first dose of Pfizer/BioNTech vaccination.

Everybody will also be screened for potential allergic reactions before getting vaccinated. All vaccinators will have the training they need to deal with any rare cases of adverse reactions, and all venues will be equipped to care for people who need it – just like with any other vaccine.

**How effective are the vaccines?** **How long do they take to work?**

The MHRA have said these vaccines are highly effective, but to get full protection people need to come back for the second dose – this is really important.

To ensure as many people are vaccinated as quickly as possible, the Department for Health and Social Care now advise that the second dose of both the OxfordAstraZeneca and the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine should be scheduled up to 12 weeks apart.

Full protection kicks in around a week or two after that second dose, which is why it’s also important that when you do get invited, you act on that and get yourself booked in as soon as possible. Even those who have received a vaccine still need to follow social distancing and other guidance.

**What happens if a person has the first jab but not the second?**

Both vaccines have been authorised on the basis of two doses because the evidence from the clinical trials shows that this gives the maximum level of protection.

To ensure as many people are vaccinated as quickly as possible, the Department for Health and Social Care now advise that the second dose of both the Oxford/AstraZeneca and the Pfizer/BioNtech vaccine should be scheduled up to 12 weeks apart.

The evidence doesn’t show any risk to not having the second dose other than not being as protected as you otherwise would be. We would urge everyone to show up for both of their appointments for their own protection as well as to ensure we don’t waste vaccines or the time of NHS staff.

**How were vaccines developed so quickly?**

Medicines including vaccines are highly regulated – and that is no different for the approved COVID-19 vaccines. There a number of enablers that have made this ground-breaking medical advancement possible and why it was possible to develop them relatively quickly compared to other medicines;

1. The different phases of the clinical trial were delivered to overlap instead of run sequentially which sped up the clinical process;
2. There was a rolling assessment of data packages as soon as they were available so experts at the MHRA could review as the trial was being delivered, ask questions along the way and request extra information as needed – as opposed to getting all information at the end of a trial;
3. clinical trials managed to recruit people very quickly as a global effort meant thousands of people were willing to volunteer.

**Were the trial participants reflective of a multi-ethnic population?**

The Public Assessment Reports contain all the scientific information about the trials and information on trial participants.

For the Pfizer trial, participants included 9.6% black/African, 26.1% Hispanic/Latino and 3.4% Asian.

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.

**Were the vaccines tested on high risk groups?**

For both vaccines trial participants included a range of those from various ages, immune-compromised and those with underlying health conditions, and both found the efficacy of the vaccine translates through all the subgroups.

Details of trial participants for both vaccines are published online.

For the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19>

For the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>

**Does the vaccine include any parts from foetal or animal origin?**

No. There is no material of foetal or animal origin in either vaccine. All ingredients are published in healthcare information on the MHRA’s website.

For the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19>

For the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>

**Can the vaccine alter your genetic material?**

There is no evidence to suggest that individual genetic material will undergo an alteration after receiving the vaccine

**How does the vaccine work?**

The vaccine works by making a protein from the virus that is important for creating protection.

The protein works in the same way they do for other vaccines by stimulating the immune system to make antibodies and cells to fight the infection.

**How long will my vaccine be effective for?**

We expect these vaccines to work for at least a year – if not longer. This will be constantly monitored.

**Are there any groups that shouldn’t have the vaccine?**

People with history of a severe allergy to the ingredients of the vaccines should not be vaccinated. Clinicians will discuss this with people before vaccinating them.

**Can I have the vaccine if I’m pregnant?**

Yes. The MHRA have updated their guidance to say that pregnant women and those who are breastfeeding can have the vaccine but should discuss it with a clinician to ensure that the benefits outweigh any potential risks.

**Does the Covid-19 vaccine affect fertility?**

There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility. Most people who contract COVID-19 will develop antibody to the spike and there is no evidence of fertility problems after Covid-19 disease.

**Can I have the vaccine during Ramadan/does the vaccine invalidate fasting?**

The British Islamic Medical Association have issued specific advice urging Muslims observing Ramadan not to delay getting the vaccine, drawing on analysis from Islamic scholars which says that injections for non-nutritional purposes do not invalidate the fast

Further information is available here: <https://britishima.org/operation-vaccination/hub/statements/#FAST>

**Does the vaccine work on those taking immune suppressants?**

Although the vaccine was not tested on those with very serious immunological conditions, the vaccine has been proven to be very effective and it is unlikely that the vaccine will have no effect at all on these individuals.

There may be a very small number of people with very complex or severe immunological problems who can’t make any response at all – but the vaccine should not do any harm to these individuals. Individuals meeting these criteria may want to discuss the vaccine further with their specialist doctor.

**What is being done to encourage vaccine uptake in black, Asian, minority ethnic and other disproportionately affected communities/groups?**

We understand that some communities have specific concerns and may be more hesitant in taking the vaccine than others. The NHS is working collaboratively with partners to ensure vaccine messages reach as diverse an audience as possible and are tailored to meet their needs.

This includes engagement with community and faith-led groups, charities and other voluntary organisations.

*Covid vaccine information*

***Messaging for local communities in different languages for Covid-19 vaccinations.***

* Iranian community (FARSI) - Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSMIc4iMDD0>

* Arabic - Dr. Kamel Ait Tahar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4h_BsId0sE>

* Punjabi - Zaheer Qureshi, Treasurer, Asian Cultural Centre, in PUNJABI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Pei-4uya_A>

* Hindu - Dr. Gian Gopal, Chairman, OHTCCP, in HINDI

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCDGJF4v-Nk>

***British Islamic Medical Association - guidance on the Pfizer vaccine***

<https://t.co/nLUucIWJrW?amp=1>

***Coronavirus vaccine Q&A in five South Asian languages***

Gujarati, Punjabi, Sylheti, Tamil, Urdu

[Coronavirus vaccine Q&A in five South Asian languages - BBC News](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-55279549?fbclid=IwAR3p9BKFw2F3bG77MTYn64gjvwKP6EwBrGtMxkJx3uqB2fxkkp15FueuWg4)

***Famous BAME people speaking about why it is safe to have the vaccine***

* The Adil Ray video;-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wg00_7vSQis&feature=youtu.be>

***How are COVID-19 vaccines being developed so quickly? (English)***

[How are COVID-19 vaccines being developed so quickly? - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR0ZO_KCaDe_2K8fg8nLxwwBW1bUQt5IW8Wi7cbQTaLnPH934UDKi8_9xEw&v=VpIsvIWJ5u4&feature=youtu.be)

*General Coronavirus guidance*

***Coronavirus advice to BAME communities from Newcastle Hospital's medical practitioners***

* Arabic - <https://youtu.be/EQrsEI-M6f8>
* Bengali - <https://youtu.be/MOJJRh54mB4>
* Bengali Sylheti - <https://youtu.be/U3GF7B3P80Y>
* Hindi - <https://youtu.be/Q5D8MQWy5AI>
* DKurdish Sorani - <https://youtu.be/N0QLGtfoyw8>
* Polish - <https://youtu.be/9IRwP0S_hVw>
* Punjabi Indian – <https://youtu.be/737to-4DuPY>
* Punjabi Pakistani – <https://youtu.be/6HrFUq9SfGk>
* Urdu - <https://youtu.be/DTaR1wbVTcc>

## *Stay at home message in different language – Newcastle Council*

* [Arabic](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Arabic.pdf)(pdf, 125kb)
* [Bengali](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Bengali.pdf)(pdf, 367kb)
* [Farsi](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Farsi.pdf)(pdf, 201kb)
* [Hindi](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Hindi.pdf)(pdf, 305kb)
* [Mandarin](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Mandarin.pdf)(pdf, 123kb)
* [Polish](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Polish.pdf)(pdf, 123kb)
* [Romanian](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/communities-and-neighbourhoods/Key%20messages%20for%20communities%20to%20stay%20safe%20with%20Coronavirus%20-%20Romanian.pdf)(pdf, 118kb)

## *COVID-19 guidance for families with children – Newcastle Council*

* [English](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/Covid%20Symptom%20Checker%20-%20Guidance%20for%20children%20with%20families%20English.pdf) (pdf, 60kb)
* [Arabic](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Arabic.pdf)(pdf, 173kb)
* [Bengali](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Bengali.pdf)(pdf, 158kb)
* [Czech](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Czech.pdf)(pdf, 160kb)
* [Farsi](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Farsi.pdf)(pdf, 878kb)
* [Hindi](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Hindi.pdf)(pdf, 134kb)
* [Kurdish](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Kurdish.pdf)(pdf, 214kb)
* [Mandarin](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Mandarin.pdf)(79kb)
* [Punjabi](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Punjabi.pdf)(pdf, 510kb)
* [Romanian](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Romanian.pdf)(pdf, 100kb)
* [Tigrinya](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20%20children%20-%20Tigrinya.pdf)(pdf, 103kb)
* [Urdu](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Public%20Health/COVID-19%20guidance%20for%20families%20with%20children%20-%20Urdu.pdf)(pdf, 225kb)