

The Covid-19 vaccination rollout: Phase 3 Community Conversations Information Pack

Index

Section	Contents	Page
1	The Covid-19 vaccination rollout	2
2	Boosters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About Covid-19 boosters • Who should have one • How to get your booster • Where to get your booster • Getting a booster: what to expect • Boosters and the flu jab • Side effects 	2 2 2 3 3 4 4 4
3	3rd dose for severely immunosuppressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who should have a third dose • How to get a third dose 	5 5 5
4	Healthy 12-15 year olds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The offer for 12-15s • How to get a vaccination • Consent • At risk 12-15 year olds 	5 5 5 5 6
5	Frequently asked questions	7

1. The vaccine rollout

- The vaccine rollout so far has been in three phases.
- The first phase covered people in the nine priority groups who are at greatest risk from Covid-19. Once everyone in these groups had been offered a vaccination, the programme moved to phase two (18-50 year olds) in the following order: 40-49, 30-39 and 18-29 year olds. All adults were offered a first vaccination by 19 July 2021.
- The following groups were subsequently added to the rollout following updated advice from the JCVI:
 - children aged 12 and over with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of serious COVID-19 (15 July)
 - children aged 12 and over who are household contacts of persons (adults or children) who are immunosuppressed (15 July)
 - 16-17 year olds - single dose (29 July)
- The third phase of the rollout is now underway and covers the following:
 - Booster vaccinations
 - 3rd doses for immunosuppressed people
 - healthy 12-15 year olds

2. Booster vaccinations

2.1 About Covid boosters

- Booster vaccines are an extra dose of a vaccine that is given to 'boost' the protection against a virus or disease. For example, boosters are given for both tetanus and polio.
- Like some other vaccines, protection levels from the Covid vaccines will reduce over time. Having a booster will help extend the protection people got from their first two doses and reduce the risk of them needing to be admitted to hospital due to COVID-19 this winter.
- Based on the evidence from the clinical trials, the JCVI has advised that there needs to be a gap of **at least six months** (182 days) between the second dose and having a booster. This is to make sure the booster works as well as possible and gives people the maximum possible amount of extra protection.
- People will be given either **Pfizer** or **Moderna** for their booster, no matter which type of vaccine they had for their previous doses. This is because the clinical trials showed that this type of vaccine (called an mRNA or 'messenger' vaccine) gave the best increase in immunity when given as a booster.

2.2 Who needs to have a booster vaccination

- Booster vaccine doses will be offered to people most at risk of COVID-19 who have had their second dose of vaccine **at least six months ago**.

- These are the people who were in the nine priority groups identified by the JCVI, which include:
 - People who live and work in care homes
 - People aged 50 and over.
 - Frontline health and social care workers.
 - People aged 16 and over who are at high risk from COVID-19 (clinically extremely vulnerable).
 - People aged 16 and over with a condition that puts them at higher risk from COVID-19
 - Unpaid carers aged 16 and over.
 - People aged 16 and over living with someone with a weakened immune system (immunosuppressed).
 - Pregnant people in any of the above eligible groups.

2.3 How to get a booster jab

- Everyone who is eligible for a booster will receive an invitation when it is their turn, either from the NHS National Booking Service or from their GP.
- This is triggered by them passing the six-month gap from when they had their second vaccination.
- They will be invited to book an appointment at their local GP service or to choose from one of the community or pharmacy vaccination centres available on the National Booking Service.
- People can also now book ahead using the National Booking Service to make sure they get their booster as soon as they are eligible. If it is five months (152 days) since you had your second dose, you can use the National Booking Service to book an appointment for as soon as you reach the six-month point.
- People are being invited in the order they were invited for their first vaccination. Care home residents, frontline health and social care workers, people aged 80 and over and those who are extremely clinically vulnerable were the first priorities and other eligible groups are being sent invites too as they reach the six month threshold.
- It is important to book your appointment as soon as you are invited so that you get your booster at the right time. This might mean you need to go to a different place to have your booster rather than the same place that you had your previous vaccines.
- Not all practices are offering boosters so we are asking people not to contact their GP about booking an appointment unless they have received an invitation from them.
- The NHS will follow up with people that haven't booked their appointment, as a reminder.

2.4 Where to get booster vaccinations

- Boosters are being given at local vaccination centres (run by groups of GP practices), community pharmacy vaccination centres and the five large vaccination centres (called community vaccination centres) in West Yorkshire.
- The community vaccination centres are:
 - Jacobs Well, Bradford

- Airedale Hospital, Steeton
- John Smith's Stadium, Huddersfield
- Elland Road, Leeds
- Spectrum Community Health, Navigation Walk, Wakefield
- For Calderdale, the community vaccination centre is Boots, on Market Street in Halifax.
- Not all GPs are providing vaccinations as some need to focus on delivering core general practice services. Extra community pharmacy services have been set up to provide more options in local communities.
- People who are housebound will be contacted by their GP services to arrange their booster when it is their turn.

2.5 Getting a booster: what to expect

- The process will be the same as for the previous doses.
- People will need to wear a face covering (unless they cannot wear one for a health or disability reason)
- If they booked their appointment using the National Booking Service, people will need to bring their booking reference number or proof of identity and occupation if they are a health or care worker.
- People will need to wait for 15 minutes after having the vaccination.
- This is in the unlikely event that they have a serious allergic reaction to the vaccine. This is very rare and if it does happen, it usually happens within minutes. Staff are trained to deal with reactions and treat them immediately.

2.6 Boosters and the flu jab

- Most people who are eligible for a Covid-19 booster will also be entitled to a free flu vaccination.
- The trials have shown that it is safe and effective to have both jabs at the same time if this is available.
- However, it may not always be possible to get them at the same place so people should have each vaccination as soon as they are offered rather than waiting to try to get them at the same time.

2.6 Side effects

- You **can't** get Covid-19 from having the vaccine or a booster vaccine.
- As with their first or second dose, some people may experience side effects after having their booster.
- The common side effects are the same as for previous doses and are mild and short-term. These include:
 - A painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm you received your injection in.
 - Feeling tired.

- Headache.
- General aches, or mild flu-like symptoms.
- The above side effects generally last for less than a week. If they get worse, or you're concerned, you can call NHS 111.

3. Third dose for severely immunosuppressed

3.1 Who should have a third dose

- The JCVI has recommended that people who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second Covid-19 vaccination should be offered a third dose.
- This is an extra 'top-up' dose because evidence has shown that they may not have responded as well to the vaccine and will have lower levels of protection against Covid-19.
- It includes people with leukaemia and advanced HIV and people who have had recent organ transplants.

3.2 How to get a third dose

- Consultants and GPs have been asked to identify which patients need a third dose eligible and when the best time would be for them to have it. (This will depend on their condition and the treatment).
- They will contact these patients to arrange their vaccination.
- The NHS has also written to people who are immunosuppressed to advise them that they may require a third dose. Not everyone who has received a letter will need a third dose and people will only be contacted by their GP if they are eligible.

4. 12-15 year olds

4.1 The offer for healthy 12-15 year olds

- Following the recommendation from the UK's four Chief Medical Officers on 13 September, vaccines are now being offered to all healthy 12-15 year olds.
- At the moment the recommendation is for a first dose only.
- 12-15 year olds will be given the Pfizer vaccine, which is the only vaccine currently authorised in the UK for this age group.

4.2 How to get a vaccination

- Vaccinations are being offered at special clinics being held at every school. These are led by local school aged immunisation services, who provide other vaccines such as flu and HPV in schools.

- There are also a number of vaccination centres offering vaccinations for 12-15 year olds so they can book a vaccination outside of school if they prefer. Appointments can be booked using the National Booking Service. (Home-schooled children will be offered vaccinations at these clinics)

4.3 Consent

- Parents and children are asked to read the information leaflet with factual details about the Covid-19 vaccine to help them make an informed decision.
- For vaccinations in schools, information and consent forms are sent to the parents/guardians of every child before the clinic. Children will only be vaccinated in school if a consent form has been returned by their parent/guardian.
- For the out of school clinics, parents/guardians are asked to attend the appointment with their child to go through the consent and screening questions.
- If a parent or guardian is not present, trained professionals with expertise in vaccinating children and assessing consent will speak to the child to assess whether they are sufficiently mature to provide their own consent. If it is felt that the child is not able to consent, they will be asked to come back with a parent or guardian.
- Information leaflets for 12-15s
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-resources-for-children-and-young-people
- Guidance for parents
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1020602/PHE_12073_COVID-19_parents_leaflet.pdf
- Consent form
www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-consent-form-for-children-and-young-people-or-parents.

4.4 At risk 12-15 year olds

- As of July, 12-15 year olds with a health condition that puts them at greater risk of serious COVID-19, or who are household contacts of severely immunosuppressed individuals have already been eligible for the vaccine.
- The JCVI recommendation is that they are offered two doses of the vaccine
- These children will have already been contacted by their GP and are not included in the school programme.

5. Other Frequently Asked Questions

About the vaccines

Can people pick which vaccine they want for their booster?

No. The JCVI has advised that Pfizer and Moderna should be used for boosters so you will be offered whichever of these vaccines is being used on the day you get your booster. Evidence showed that both vaccines significantly increase increase protection levels when used as a booster, no matter which vaccine you had for your first doses.

What is an mRNA vaccine?

mRNA is short for 'Messenger ribonucleic acid'. This is found in all cells in your body and tells your body how to make proteins.

Like all vaccines, mRNA vaccines teach your body how to fight a virus by introducing a fragment of protein from the virus into your body. This stimulates the immune system to make antibodies and cells to fight the infection. Many vaccines use a protein from a weakened or inactivated virus but mRNA vaccines use mRNA created in a laboratory to teach your cells how to make copies of the protein.

After the mRNA delivers its instructions, your body breaks it down and gets rid of it.

Eligibility and priority groups

What are the nine priority groups?

- The JCVI identified nine priority groups to make sure that the people who at the greatest risk from COVID-19 get the vaccine first. (Based on preventing death due to COVID-19 and the need to protect health and social care staff and systems).
 1. Care home residents and staff
 2. People aged 80 and over and frontline health and social care workers
 3. People aged 75 and over
 4. People aged 70 and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
 5. People aged 65 and over
 6. - People aged 16 to 64 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality and those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance or who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.
- People aged 16 and over who are living with an adult who has a weakened immune systems, such as those with blood cancer, HIV or those on immunosuppressive treatment
 7. People aged 60 and over
 8. People aged 55 and over
 9. People aged 50 and over

Which conditions are included in cohort 6?

People with the following conditions are included in cohort 6 and should have a booster jab:

- chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis and severe asthma

- chronic heart disease (and vascular disease)
- chronic kidney disease
- chronic liver disease
- chronic neurological disease including epilepsy
- Down's syndrome
- people with a learning disability
- diabetes
- solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant recipients
- people with specific cancers
- immunosuppression due to disease or treatment
- asplenia and splenic dysfunction
- morbid obesity
- severe mental illness

Boosters

Why is the COVID-19 booster programme needed?

Like some other vaccines, protection levels from the Covid vaccines will reduce over time. Having reviewed the current data, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has recommended that COVID-19 boosters are offered to the people who are most likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19 and those who care for them in order to provide maximum protection during the winter months. The boosters will help extend the protection people got from their first two doses and reduce the risk of them needing to be admitted to hospital due to COVID-19 this winter.

Why haven't I been offered a booster by my GP?

Not all GPs / PCNs are providing vaccinations as some need to focus on delivering core general practice services. Extra community pharmacy services have been set up to provide more options in local communities and people can book appointments using the National Booking Service.

Is there anyone who shouldn't have the booster vaccine?

There are very few people in the eligible groups who should not have a booster. If you have had a severe reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine you should discuss this with your doctor.

Why aren't most younger people being offered a booster?

As most younger adults will only have received their second COVID-19 vaccine dose in late summer or early autumn, the benefits of booster vaccination in this group will be considered at a later time when more information is available. In general, younger, healthy individuals are expected to generate stronger immune responses from vaccination compared to older individuals.

Can I have the booster if I haven't completed the first vaccination course?

No, you need to finish the first course of your vaccination.

Can I get the booster if I am pregnant?

If you are pregnant and in one of the groups that the JCVI has recommended for the boosters, you are eligible to receive a booster, no earlier than six months after completion of the first course of vaccination. The NHS will contact you when it is your turn.

12-15s

Is the vaccine safe for children?

Yes. It has been approved by the UK's independent medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) after a thorough review of the safety, quality, and effectiveness of the vaccine in 12-15 year olds. It has already been used extensively in other countries such as the USA and Israel and millions of 12-15 year olds across the world have now been vaccinated.

Why should 12-15 year olds get the Covid-19 vaccine?

Getting the vaccine will help to protect children and young people against COVID-19. Whilst most children usually have mild illness, they can pass on their infection to others in their family and those they come into contact with. Getting vaccinated will also help to reduce the chance of disruption to their education from Covid-19. This is an important decision and children and their parents should read the information leaflets to help to make an informed decision.

Is there a risk of a child having an allergic reaction to the vaccine?

Allergic reactions are very rare but every child will be taken through a set of screening questions designed to pick up any conditions that may need special consideration before vaccination. Before any vaccination appointment, it would be helpful for children and their parents to consider what is likely to be asked, and some pre-screening questions to help do this are available online at bit.ly/vaccine-checklist.

Can a child have a Covid-19 vaccine if they are within a few weeks of their twelfth birthday?

No. The vaccine is only licenced for children aged 12 and over so only children who are 12 on or before the date of vaccination can be vaccinated.

Is the vaccine at the vaccination centre clinics the same as the one offered in schools?

Yes. The only vaccine licenced in the UK for school-aged children is the Pfizer vaccine so this will be used at all clinics.

Other

I'm currently ill with COVID-19, can I get the booster?

If you have Covid-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms you should not receive your COVID-19 booster until you have recovered. The guidance says this should be at least four weeks after the start of symptoms or from the date of a positive Covid-19 test.

I haven't yet had the COVID-19 vaccination, can I still get my first jabs?

Yes, you can still get your first or second vaccination if you haven't had yours yet. Everyone aged 12 and over can book their vaccination using the [online NHS booking service](#) or by calling 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.