

## FAQ's or COVID vaccination

### Why can't I contact you to book my covid jab?

Clinics are scheduled according to vaccine delivery and until delivery is confirmed, we cannot book patients into clinics. Therefore we are unable to book you on demand or when you request it. We will contact you when it is your turn to have the jab either directly from us or NHS directly.

### Why has my neighbour had their covid jab before me?

We have not forgotten you. Each practice in the neighbourhood has a defined number of slots in each clinic available to them to book their patients into. There are many more patients than slots available in each clinic, therefore it will take several clinics to get through each eligible cohort.

Remember the covid vaccination programme is not like the flu vaccination programme, it is on a much larger scale, and will run for 8-9 months minimum, not just over a few weeks like the flu programme, so everyone eligible will eventually get their turn.

### How are you choosing which people to contact?

The single greatest risk factor for Covid-19 is increasing age, and this risk rises exponentially (more and more rapidly) with age. The optimal strategy for minimising future deaths is to offer vaccination to older age groups first.

1. **care home residents and their carers**
  2. all those **80 years of age and over**, and **frontline health and social care workers**
  3. all those **75 years of age and over**
  4. all those **70 years of age and over**, and **clinically extremely vulnerable** individuals
  5. all those **65 years of age and over**
  6. all those **aged 16 years to 64 years** with **underlying health conditions** which put them at higher risk of serious illness and death
  7. all those **60 years of age and over**
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8. all those **55 years of age and over**

9. all those **50 years of age and over**

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## **Why can't I have the jab now and just get back to normal?**

Please see above. We cannot shortcut the national process for the eligible cohorts and you cannot buy the jab privately.

Although we definitely want to see as many people vaccinated as possible, and we all know the whole country wants to get back to normal as soon as possible, the covid vaccination programme is a marathon, not a sprint. Even if you have the jab now, it does not mean that you or your family can abandon all the ongoing measures to keep yourselves safe. You must still socially distance, adhere to strict hygiene and follow all rules on local and national restrictions.

Please be aware that everyone is working extremely hard behind the scenes to get this programme up and running as quickly, effectively and efficiently as possible, so even if you do not hear straight away, you can be assured that strenuous efforts are underway and you will get your turn.

The quickest way to get the jab is to wait your turn and accept and attend any appointment for the jab that you will be offered.

## **What if I live in a care home or I'm housebound and can't get to a clinic?**

Please be assured that there are processes to ensure that all residents (and health care staff) in care homes and those patients who are housebound will be vaccinated in a separate process. You will not be left out. Please wait to be contacted.

Please note, if you are offered the vaccine, and are able to get to a clinic (for example, with help from a relative or friend), we do encourage you to attend the clinic if possible. If you cannot attend a clinic, you may have to wait for the above process to get round to you.

## **What if I am a frontline health or social care worker?**

If you work for an NHS trust, or hospital, then your human resources or occupational health department will arrange for you to get the covid jab.

If you work in a care home, you should be able to get your covid jab when the residents in your workplace get theirs.

For all other health and social care workers, please wait to be contacted by your employing organisation in due course.

You may have been asked by your employer to get in touch with us to either inform us of your employment status, or to book your covid jab. There is no need to contact us at this time, as GPs are currently not involved in call and recall of this group.

### **Can I pick which brand of covid jab I get?**

No you can't. Also, as far as we know, once you have started a course with one brand of vaccine, you must complete the course with the same brand and not switch over to a different brand.

### **What if I don't want the jab?**

We strongly encourage all eligible patients to have the covid jab, in line with national guidance to protect not only yourselves but also those around you. However if you are certain that you do not want the jab, please ring us and let us know and we will exclude you from any invites for the jab.

### **I have another query - can I call you?**

We remain as busy as ever dealing with ongoing clinical work during this pandemic and calling us about this will block urgent calls coming in. Please revert to national guidance.

### **Important to Remember:**

Please try not to worry. We have your details. Please wait to be contacted.

**CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT:** please keep yourselves safe in the meantime.