

Key facts about the vaccine

This information is in addition to that shown on the Healthwatch Brighton and Hove website which includes details of the priority list, and vaccination centres. Please click [here](#) to access [the website](#).

Three vaccines have now been approved for use by the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA):

- [Pfizer/BioNTech](#)
- [Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine](#) - read more about this vaccine by clicking [here](#)
- [Moderna](#) (approval only given on 8th January) - read more [here](#)

Effectiveness

All three are very effective. Clinical trials have shown them to be at least 94% effective at protecting people over the age of 65 from the virus, with trials indicating that it works equally as well in people of all ages, races, and ethnicities. You cannot ask to receive one vaccine over the other, as there is no need.

All vaccines, and any new ones, undergo vigorous testing and must be approved by the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA). Vaccines must meet a safety assessment, manufacturing quality assessment, and effectiveness assessment.



Medical trials have purposefully involved people with serious underlying health conditions, from a broad range of ages, to ensure their effectiveness in protecting the most vulnerable.

The vaccines offer considerable protection after the first dose has been given, but full protection should begin 7-10 days after the second dose. There is currently no evidence to suggest that the vaccines will not be as effective against the new variants of the virus.

The full impact of the vaccines on infection rates will only become clear in time, and only then can decisions be taken about ending current lockdown restrictions.

[This BBC article](#) explains things in a simple way, including how the vaccine may be rolled out to different groups. The BBC has produced this infographic (not yet updated to reflect today's announcement about the Moderna vaccine):

How the two vaccines compare

Company	Type	Doses	How effective at one dose*	Storage
 Oxford Uni- AstraZeneca	Viral vector (genetically modified virus)	x2	73%	Regular fridge temperature
 Pfizer-BioNTech	RNA	x2	89%	-70C

* JCVI estimated figures - a second dose is necessary to provide longer-term immunity

Source: Respective companies, WHO

Vaccinations

Everyone will receive two doses of a vaccine.

- For the [Pfizer/BioNTech](#) and [Oxford/Astra Zeneca vaccine](#) the second dose will be within 12 weeks of the first ([based on updated guidance](#))
- For the Moderna vaccine it is recommended to administer the second dose 28 days after the first.

The second dose is important for longer-term protection.

Previously, it was recommended that the second dose of the [Pfizer/BioNTech](#) vaccine should be given 3 weeks after the first. This is now 12 weeks because it has been shown that the vaccine gives a high level of protection after the first dose. It has been decided that initially vaccinating a greater number of people with a single dose will prevent more deaths and hospitalisations than vaccinating a smaller number of people with 2 doses.

When you are vaccinated you will be given a card indicating the date of your vaccination, vaccine batch, and type. All vaccinations are recorded on your GP patient record.

Like all vaccines there are some side-effects from these vaccines, but they are mostly short-lived and not everyone gets them. The vaccine will be continually monitored by health professionals. You can report serious side effects using the [Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#)

More evidence is needed to understand whether an annual booster will be required.

You should still have the vaccine even if you have already had COVID.

Availability, and invites to be vaccinated.

Hundreds of thousands of doses are already available, and millions will be made available during the first quarter of the year (January - March). Currently, it is estimated that the Moderna vaccine will be available in the Spring.

You will be contacted when it is your turn. For most people this will be in the form of a letter from their GP, or the national booking system.

Please be wary of vaccination scams - you will never be asked never to press a button on your keypad (likely to result in a charge being applied to your phone bill) or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine or asked for payment or for your bank details.

Numbers vaccinated.

The NHS publishes data about number of people who have been vaccinated, please click [here](#). In the week ending the 3rd January 2021 a total of 308,541 people received an NHS vaccination for COVID-19 in England. This takes the total since vaccinations began on the 8th of December to 1,296,432 as of 3 January 2021. [View vaccination data](#)

Recent news:

Click these links to read more.

[Covid-19: Boris Johnson makes daily jab pledge](#)

[High street pharmacies to start offering Oxford COVID-19 vaccine](#)

[Moderna becomes third COVID-19 vaccine approved in the UK](#)

[Seven mass vaccination hubs announced for England](#)

Various venues will be converted into regional centres in a bid to meet the government's target of vaccinating 14 million people in the UK by February.

It is expected the hubs will be staffed by NHS staff and volunteers.

The seven sites announced by Downing Street are:

1. Etihad Tennis Centre, Manchester
2. Epsom Downs Racecourse, Surrey
3. Robertson House, Stevenage
4. Centre for Life, Newcastle
5. Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol
6. Millennium Point, Birmingham
7. ExCel, London.

[Fake NHS vaccine messages sent in banking fraud scam](#) Please be alert to potential scams. You will never be asked for your bank details.

Contact us!

If you have any specific questions, please contact us at

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