

## **Covid Vaccination Programme Frequently Asked Questions**

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### **Q1. When will I get my vaccination?**

#### **A1. You will receive your vaccine as soon as we have supply and the authority from NHS England to vaccinate the group you are in.**

##### **Explanation in full**

All patients aged 50+ years or 16-64 years (with an underlying health condition as set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation) who fall into Groups 1-9 should have now been offered a vaccination. If you have not received your vaccination and fall into one of these groups, then you should make contact with the Practice.

Patients aged under 50 years will be invited once we have offered and administered as many vaccinations to those in the top 9 priority groups. The Government has set a deadline for this to be done by 15<sup>th</sup> April so we are expecting an announcement shortly after. The practice will of course start inviting these patients as soon as we are able.

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### **Q2. Which vaccine will I receive?**

#### **A2. The vaccine that is available.**

##### **Explanation in full**

It is not possible to choose which vaccination you would like. The practice (like other vaccination sites) do not get to choose which vaccines are allocated and it is not possible for individuals to choose. There may be reasons why an individual needs to have a particular vaccine due to a medical or licencing reason. A clinician will advise the individual if they are to receive a specific vaccine and inform them once this is available.

At present, the Oxford AstraZeneca and the Pfizer BioNTech vaccines are available across the UK. Other vaccines are expected to follow with the Moderna vaccine due in April. All vaccines in use have been approved by the MHRA (Medical Health Regulatory Authority) and are very effective in preventing admission to hospital with Covid-19.

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### **Q3. Are there any side effects?**

#### **A3. Minor ones for a few.**

##### **Explanation in full**

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short term, lasting no more than a few days and for some there are no side effects at all.

Common, short term side effects include:

- A sore arm around the needle site
  - Feeling tired
  - A headache
  - Feeling achy
  - Feeling or being sick
  - A slight temperature or fever for a few hours
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**Q4. When will I receive my Second Dose?**

**A4. At 12 weeks**

**Explanation in full**

Having your second dose is really important when the time comes. The UK decided very early on to extend the period of time between the first and second dose because most of an individual's short term protection comes from the first dose. By protecting a larger proportion of the population with some level of immunity, means that we could protect more people over the same amount of time.

The UK has decided to leave a period of 12 weeks between doses so the practice will make contact at around week 11 for your second dose to be administered on or around week 12. Please only contact the surgery if you are approaching week 12 and have not yet heard about your second dose. Your second dose will be the same vaccine as your first.

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**Q5. Do I need to keep following the rules after I have been vaccinated?**

**A5. Yes**

**Explanation in full**

Protection from any vaccine takes time to build up. In general, the older you are, the longer it takes. It will take at least 2 weeks in younger people and at least 3 weeks in older people before you can expect to have a good antibody response. Even then, you must return for your second dose to boost that immunity response. Vaccines offer important protection to reduce risk but they are not 100% effective and therefore we need to follow what rules are in place to ensure we protect ourselves and others.