

## Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination

### **I have a severely weakened immune system. How can I get an additional vaccine?**

If your specialist or GP has assessed that you need additional COVID-19 vaccination, they should make a referral for you. They must provide a completed patient specific direction form to advise on the best timing for your vaccination around planned treatment.

Your Integrated Care Board can help you to arrange a vaccination appointment in your area if your specialist or GP cannot organise this for you. Please contact your local NHS service using the contact details at [www.england.nhs.uk/local-covid-19-vaccination-contacts/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/local-covid-19-vaccination-contacts/).

### **Who has a weakened immune system?**

Here are examples of some health conditions and treatments that may cause a weakened immune system:

- A blood cancer such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma
- An organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant
- HIV infection at all stages
- Genetic disorders affecting the immune system
- Treatment such as steroid medicine, biological therapy, chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- Certain medicines that increase your risk of infection
- Long-term immunosuppressive treatment for conditions including systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, scleroderma and psoriasis.

If you are unsure, you should speak to your pharmacist, GP or specialist for advice.

### **Who is a household contact?**

Household contacts of a person with a weakened immune system are define as:  
*“Individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days... And therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.”*

### **I am not a British citizen. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine in England?**

When vaccines are available, if you are in an eligible group, you will be able to get your next vaccine in England.

You are encouraged to register with a GP surgery in England, however this is not essential. Anyone in England can register with a GP. You do not need proof of identity or immigration status. This information will not be passed on to the Home Office. For more information on how to register with a GP, please visit [nhs.uk/register](https://nhs.uk/register).

Being registered with a GP surgery will enable you to book an appointment through the national booking service when vaccines are available. Otherwise, you can get vaccinated at a walk-in site without being registered with a GP or having an NHS number. Walk-in site locations can be found at [nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in](https://nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in). Information on vaccination in the UK is available in different languages at [gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-information-for-migrants](https://gov.uk/government/publications/immunisation-information-for-migrants).

### **How will I be invited?**

If your NHS record suggests you may be eligible for a vaccination, you may receive a text message, email, NHS App message or letter from the NHS.

### **How do you identify people to invite?**

NHS England uses GP surgery and hospital records to decide who is eligible for a vaccination.

### **How can I get a seasonal COVID-19 vaccine?**

When available, there may be different ways you can get a COVID-19 vaccine:

- Book using the NHS App or online at [nhs.uk/book-covid](https://nhs.uk/book-covid)
- Find a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site at [nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in](https://nhs.uk/vaccine-walk-in)
- Book through a local NHS service, such as a GP surgery
- Through your care home

### **I need a home visit. Can you help?**

If you're due a vaccination and usually get your care at home, please contact your GP surgery to arrange a home visit with a local NHS service in the first instance.

### **Which vaccines are approved for use?**

COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK include:

- Moderna (Spikevax)
- Pfizer/BioNTech (Comirnaty)

- Novavax (Nuvaxovid)
- Sanofi and GSK (VidPrevtynBeta)

For the latest information, go to [nhs.uk/covidvaccine](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccine)

### **Why do I need another vaccine?**

Seasonal vaccines are offered because protection fades over time. A vaccine helps give you good protection from becoming seriously ill or needing to go to hospital if you catch COVID-19.

### **Should I get the vaccine if I have long COVID?**

Yes. The MHRA has 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. If you're suffering significant ongoing complications, your specialist or GP will be able to advise you.

### **Can I get vaccinated if I'm breastfeeding?**

Yes, you can have the COVID-19 vaccine if you're breastfeeding. For the latest advice, go to [gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding](https://gov.uk/government/publications/COVID-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding).

### **Should I get vaccinated if I'm pregnant?**

Yes, when seasonal vaccinations are available, having the vaccine will help protect you against severe illness. Pregnancy increases your risk of becoming seriously ill if you catch COVID-19. You will be offered a vaccine that is suitable for you. If you have any concerns, speak to the healthcare professional at your appointment. You can also contact your maternity service or GP surgery for advice.