

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Your Questions Answered:



General Practice in Derbyshire is under huge pressure.

We are continuing to deliver high quality care to patients who need it whilst running the largest and most complex vaccine programme in history.

Please do not call your surgery with vaccine queries, instead, we answer your frequently asked questions here:

When will I get my COVID-19 vaccine and why cant I contact you to find out more?

The NHS has a priority list based on age and at risk groups e.g. health workers. When we are working on your priority group **you will be contacted**.

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. **General practice is incredibly busy and we simply cannot manage vaccine queries on top of looking after our patients and running the vaccine programme.**

Why has my friend in Derbyshire had their COVID-19 vaccine before me. Have I been forgotten?

No you haven't been forgotten. Practices are receiving vaccines at different stages of the programme and in different quantities. Each practice will have a defined number of slots available in each clinic. There are many more patients than slots available, therefore it will take several clinics to get through each eligible cohort This has been logistically incredibly challenging but **you will get called**.

How are you choosing which people to contact?

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

Please check the [priority list](#) for the eligible cohorts.

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

We want to see as many people safely vaccinated as possible, and we all want to get back to normal. The COVID-19 vaccination programme is a marathon, not a sprint.

Even if you have the jab now, you and your family still need to adhere to strict protective measures such as social distancing / isolation in the event of symptoms.

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. 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?

There are processes to ensure that all residents (and health care staff) in care homes and those patients who are housebound will be vaccinated. 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

Why has my dad's second COVID-19 jab been cancelled?

This is a result of a direct request from the four Chief Medical Officers for the United Kingdom based on new evidence from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation. The evidence suggests that the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine is at least 70% effective AND provides protection for most people up to 3 months.

This significant change might be a little confusing and perhaps frustrating for some, however the aim of it is to **vaccinate as many at risk people as quickly as possible**, preventing infections and saving lives at a time when coronavirus is spreading rapidly and the NHS is under huge pressure.

Those interested might wish to read the [official letter from the CMOs to the profession](#) and the [technical evidence from the JCVI](#) surrounding this whole issue.

I don't know my NHS number, will I still be able to get a vaccine?

Despite what you may have seen on some social media posts; **you do not need your NHS number** to be vaccinated. Your date of birth and address will be sufficient. **Please do not call your surgery** to request your number. If you do not have your medical card and would like to know it, it can be found on your prescriptions / medications.

Can I pick which brand of COVID-19 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 am a frontline health or social care worker (HSCW)?

There has been new [guidance](#) released this week. Our local health care system is working on this and will be in contact via your employer.

GPs will not be involved in the call / recall of HSCW vaccinations.

I have an appointment but cannot make it, what should I do?

Across the county we are seeing patients not attending for their booked COVID-19 vaccination. We know emergencies happen but this means vaccine is being wasted and we are losing opportunities to use this precious resource. **Please attend your booked appointment.**

What if I don't want the jab?

We strongly encourage all eligible patients to have the COVID-19 jab, in line with national guidance to protect not only yourselves but also those around you.

AND A FINAL FAQ . . . Why has my hospital appointment been cancelled?

You'll have seen the news about how busy the NHS is and how bed occupancy is higher than at the first peak of the pandemic. **We simply can not do routine NHS work at this time.** This is why cancellations will occur and we don't know when normality will resume. Prioritisation is key. As GPs we do not influence this process.

For more FAQs please see the [Gov.uk website](#)

THE KEY MESSAGES ARE:

- 1) We will contact YOU when we are ready to vaccinate you please do not ring us
- 2) THINK before calling your GP and use online services first
- 4) Whether you have received your vaccine or not, please keep yourselves safe by:

Following the lockdown guidance
Remember to THINK HANDS / FACE / SPACE
ISOLATE and TEST if you have symptoms
ISOLATE if told to by Test and Trace



We would like to [thank Ivy Grove Surgery](#), Ripley for allowing us to adapt their excellent advice sheet.