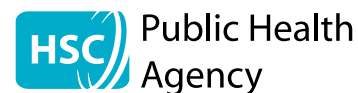


# COVID-19 vaccine



# A simple guide



## Why should I get the vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine helps protect you from COVID-19.

## How can I get the vaccine?

In Northern Ireland anyone aged 18 years or over can get the vaccination. You can find out how at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/get-covid-19-vaccination-northern-ireland](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/get-covid-19-vaccination-northern-ireland)

## Which is the best vaccine?

All of the approved vaccines are effective and safe. There is no 'best' vaccine.

## Which vaccine will I get?

You will get the age appropriate vaccination from the approved vaccines available.

## Can I pick which one I get?

For details regarding the vaccination roll out, with regards to age group, please see the following statement from the Northern Ireland Department of Health: [www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/department-updates-vaccination-programme](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/department-updates-vaccination-programme)

## Why do I need two injections?

You need both doses for the best protection. The first dose will give you good protection but you need the second to give longer lasting protection.

## What is the gap between doses?

The gap between doses should be six weeks for the Pfizer/Moderna vaccines and eight weeks for the AstraZeneca vaccine.

## Are there any side effects?

As with all medicines, side effects can occur after getting a vaccine. However, these are usually very minor and of short duration, such as a sore arm or a mild fever. Tests have been done in thousands of adults to ensure the vaccine is safe. You can find out more at [www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/covid-19-vaccination-what-expect-and-translations](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/covid-19-vaccination-what-expect-and-translations)

## Can I still spread the virus to others if I am vaccinated?

We do not yet know whether it will stop you from passing on the virus. So, it is important to follow the public health guidance to protect those around you. This includes social distancing, face coverings where required and washing your hands carefully and often.

## I have a health condition. Is the vaccine safe for me?

There are very few people who cannot receive the vaccine. The vaccines currently available do not contain live virus, so are safe for people with problems with their immune system.

People with allergies should discuss this with the vaccinator when they are invited to attend.

## What if I'm pregnant, planning to get pregnant or breastfeeding?

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised that women who are pregnant should be offered vaccination at the same time as non-pregnant women, based on their age and clinical risk group. You can find out more at [www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/covid-19-vaccination-guide-women-who-are-pregnant-or-breastfeeding-and-translations](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/covid-19-vaccination-guide-women-who-are-pregnant-or-breastfeeding-and-translations)

## Will other measures (social distancing/face coverings/lockdowns) still apply to me if I've had the vaccine?

Yes, you should still act to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the community and stick to the regulations as you may still be able to carry the virus. This includes if you are a household contact of or are advised by Contact Tracing or the STOPCOVID NI App you are a close contact of a case of COVID-19 you need to self-isolate. You should also book a test at a drive through or go to a walk through site. You should do this as soon as possible.