

# COVID-19: Facts about the vaccine

Choosing to get the COVID-19 vaccine will help protect staff, their families and residents. When making your decision it's important to know the facts:

## Can the vaccine affect fertility?

**No.** The British Fertility Society, Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists (RCOG) and Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists have advised that there is absolutely no evidence, and no theoretical reason, that any of the COVID-19 vaccines can affect the fertility of women or men.

## Can I have the vaccine if I am pregnant?

**Yes.** COVID-19 vaccines are recommended in pregnancy by the RCOG and Royal College of Midwives (RCM). Vaccination is the best way to protect against the known risks of COVID-19 in pregnancy for both women and babies, including admission of the woman to intensive care and premature birth of the baby.

## Can I have the vaccine if I am breastfeeding?

**Yes.** The advice from the RCOG and RCM is that all breastfeeding women should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Is it safe to have a different vaccine for my booster?

**Yes.** The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have advised that those eligible for booster vaccines, irrespective of the product used in the primary vaccine course, should receive either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine, because this provides the strongest immune response.

## Can I still catch COVID-19 after vaccination?

**Yes,** but the infection is likely to be less serious.



## Do I need the booster vaccine?

**Yes,** the best protection comes from being fully vaccinated.

## Do staff need to be vaccinated when residents already are?

**Yes.** The best protection for residents, staff and their families is for everyone to be fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to spread infection but transmission is still possible.

## Do I need the vaccine if I have had COVID-19?

**Yes.** Vaccines also produce a much stronger response from our immune system when compared to the response seen after COVID-19 infection alone.

## Do I need the COVID-19 vaccine and the flu vaccine?

**Yes.** The COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine protect against different diseases. Both are important to protect staff, their families and residents.

You can find out more about the COVID-19 vaccination at <http://pha.site/vaccination-questions-and-answers>