

COVID-19: Facts about the vaccine

Choosing to get the COVID-19 vaccine will help protect patients, staff and their families. 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 patients already are?

Yes. The best protection for patients, 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 patients, staff and their families.

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