

Vaccines during pregnancy

Following recent JCVI guidance, pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding should be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or Moderna vaccine. All vaccination sites offering the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines must ensure that pregnant women are able to book appointments at the same time as non-pregnant women, based on age and clinical group. PHE's Green Book has been updated to reflect this advice and can be found [here](#).

NIHR is now recruiting 235 pregnant women (at around 30 weeks) to its COVID-19 Vacc Maternal Immunisation study, following JCVI's updated guidance in April approving mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for pregnant women. This phase 2/3 study aims to understand the safety, tolerability and immunogenicity of the Pfizer vaccine in healthy pregnant women, as well as the transfer of maternal antibodies to infants. Participants will receive either two doses of the vaccine or a placebo 21 days apart.

Leaving nobody behind

Local NHS teams have worked hard to offer the first crucial dose of the vaccine to everyone in the top 11 priority groups by the middle of May as planned, and take-up has been exceptionally high.

While this important milestone means that NHS teams can now move on to offer first doses to the next priority group, it's important that people know that if they have been invited but haven't taken up the offer yet, it remains in place.

So if you are in one of those priority groups – meaning you are 30 or over, have a health condition that puts you at greater risk, or are a health or social care worker – and you haven't booked your first dose yet, the time to do so is right now.

You can find out how at nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by phoning 119. If you are eligible but can't find any suitable appointments through the national service, you can speak to your GP, or to your employer if you are a health or social care worker.

If you already have an appointment over the coming weeks, whether for your first or second dose, this remains in place and it's really important that you attend as planned.

The NHS is continuing to work extensively at local and national level, including with community and faith leaders, to engage with those communities where there is still some hesitancy, to make the positive case for vaccination and counter misinformation. Across the first 11 priority groups, most people across all ethnic minorities have already taken up their first dose.

Text messages

As we move onto new age groups, the National Booking Service has stepped up a text message service for COVID-19 vaccination invitations and reminders.

People receiving these text messages will be invited to book online at [nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or by calling 119.

The text message will be sent using the Government's secure Notify service and show as being sent from **NHSvaccine**. You can trust your text message is genuine if it comes from 'NHSvaccine', includes a link to the NHS.uk website and gives you the option of phoning 119.

Always remember that:

- The NHS will never ask you for your bank account or card details.
- The NHS will never ask you for your PIN or banking password.
- The NHS will never arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine.
- The NHS will never ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

Vaccination services and workforce

As supplies have increased the NHS has increased capacity to deliver them, and we are now delivering vaccines in more than 1,600 individual services.

As supplies allow, the NHS will be able to deliver protection to more people from more local services.

Second doses

The NHS has been planning meticulously to ensure that people can get a second dose when it is the right time for them to do so. Over 22 million second doses have already been administered.

People who received their first dose in a hospital hub or through a GP service will be contacted to receive their second dose. They do not need to contact the NHS.

People who booked their appointments through the national booking service (online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by ringing 119) will have booked both their first and second appointments at the same time.

People who rang 119 will have been given details of their second appointment over the phone.

People who booked online can remind themselves of the place and time of their second dose using the 'manage my appointments' section on www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination.

Pressures

Millions of people are now benefiting from protection from the virus and this has contributed to dramatic falls in infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

Urgent care is still available for those who need it, so we would urge people not to put off coming forward. We continue to encourage people to use 111 first for urgent care so that they can be directed to the best local service for them, or 999 for life-threatening illness or injuries.

Every member of the public can support our key workers and the national effort by following the rules where they live to try to contain the virus and remembering hands, face, space at all times.