

Covid vaccine sites and appointments

Where will I get my vaccination and why?

- You will be invited to attend either the Newcastle Racecourse (NE3 5HP) or Newcastle Eagles (NE4 7AF) for both of your COVID-19 vaccinations (note as we open more sites this will be adjusted). We are delivering vaccinations from hubs across Newcastle. This is because currently the vaccine has to travel in one box and cannot be split, so cannot be delivered to local practices. Using these big sites will also help support your general practice to continue to deliver services.

How do I get there?

- Please get a lift to your appointment from a relative/carer or drive yourself. You could use a taxi however please bear in mind that there will be limited waiting space in the building to help avoid crowding. There is free parking at all sites, which will be clearly signposted.
- If in a car, please arrive a little early (15 minutes) to your appointment. There will be free car parking spaces for waiting in the car and then please make your way to the entrance of the building just before your appointment time (this will be about a 5-minute walk).
- If you can't get a lift, GoodSAM have the facility to provide volunteer drivers to get people to appointments. Referrals can be made by health professionals at: [GoodSAM \(goodsamapp.org\)](https://goodsamapp.org) or Self-referrals from isolated individuals can be made by calling the GoodSAM Support Team on 0808 196 3646. NGPS are unfortunately not able to facilitate volunteer drivers at this time.

Where do I go at the site?

- Please [click here](#) to see the picture walk through for the Newcastle Eagles vaccination site.
- Please [click here](#) to see the picture walk through for the Racecourse vaccination site.

What do I need to bring?

- If you have a face covering, please wear this to your appointment to protect yourself and others (there will be masks available at the door for those who do not have one). Although we will try and avoid queuing outside, please wear a coat and bring an umbrella just in case. It would be helpful if you can wear a loose-fitting top that you can easily roll up or remove for getting your vaccine.

Can I bring someone with me?

- Yes, you may attend your appointment with one relative/carer.

What will happen at my appointment?

- If in a car, please arrive a little early (15 minutes) to your appointment. There will be free car parking spaces for waiting in the car and then please make your way to the entrance of the building just before your appointment time (this will be about a 5-minute walk).
- You will be directed into the building where we have a one-way circuit with vaccination stations off it. You will have a short health assessment, followed by your vaccination. The vaccine will be injected into the muscle at the top of your arm and shouldn't feel any different from a flu jab. You will be asked to wait for 15 minutes to check for rare allergic reactions, which can happen with any vaccine.

How long will the appointment take?

- Please also allow about 5 minutes to walk from your car to the entrance. Once inside our hub, your appointment will take about 25 minutes, including observation time.

Who will be delivering my vaccine?

- A registered health care professional will go through a short health assessment with you and a trained immuniser will give you your vaccine injection. There will be plenty of marshals and staff on site to help guide you on the day.

Are there toilets on site?

- Yes, there are accessible toilet facilities available at all Covid vaccination sites.

Vaccine safety, efficiency, and side effects

Is the NHS confident the vaccine is safe?

- Yes. The NHS will not offer any Covid-19 vaccinations to the public until experts have signed off that it is safe to do so. The MHRA, the official UK regulator, have said this vaccine is very safe and highly effective, and we have full confidence in their expert judgement and processes.
- As with any medicine, vaccines are highly regulated products. There are checks at every stage in the development and manufacturing process, and continued monitoring once it has been authorised and is being used in the wider population.
- At the vaccine site, all staff involved in delivering the vaccines will be wearing PPE, there will be a one-way system in place adhering to social distancing and all venues meet the requirements of Infection Prevention and Control.

Will there be any side effects?

- Like all vaccines, COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT162b2 can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Most side effects are mild or moderate such as, pain at the injection site, tiredness, muscle pain, joint pain, headache, chills, fever, and go away within a few days of appearing. If side effects such as pain and/or fever are troublesome, they can be treated with medicines for pain and fever such as paracetamol. Even if you do have symptoms after the first dose, you still need to have the second dose. You may not be protected until at least seven days after your second dose of the vaccine. As with all vaccines, appropriate treatment and care will be available in case of a rare anaphylactic event following administration.

When do I get the second dose?

- For this first vaccine, you will be offered an appointment for a second dose no sooner than 21 days after your first, but generally within 28 days. It is important to have both, you may not be protected until at least seven days after your second dose of vaccine.

When will I be protected?

- You should start developing some immunity 7-14 days after your first injection, but full protection is unlikely to develop until at least a week after the second booster.

I have had my flu vaccine, do I need the COVID-19 vaccine as well?

- The flu vaccine does not protect you from COVID-19. As you are eligible for both vaccines you should have them both, but normally separated by at least a week.

Will the COVID-19 vaccine protect me from flu?

- No, the COVID-19 vaccine will not protect you against the flu. If you have been offered a flu vaccine, please try to have this as soon as possible to help protect you, your family and patients from flu this winter.

Are there any reasons why I should not have the vaccine?

- We will not be vaccinating anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to a previous vaccine, medicine or food (an anaphylactic reaction). We will also not be giving it to pregnant women, or those planning on trying for a baby within two months or anyone who is acutely unwell (as per any other vaccine), has had a flu vaccine within 7 days or currently have or have had Covid-19 symptoms, including fever, or a positive Covid-19 test within 28 days.

How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine?

- This is all included in the information published by the MHRA, and Public Health England will also be publishing more resources for patients and professionals. People can be assured the NHS will ensure that they have all the necessary information on those vaccines that are approved by the MHRA before they attend for their vaccination.

Could I catch Covid from attending?

- Like all hubs, we have gone to great lengths to reduce cross-infection, for your sake and ours. Don't forget to bring a mask and follow the instructions that you are given. All of our team at the hub will be wearing PPE and we will be using a one-way system to support social distancing.

What is the evidence to show the vaccine is safe for BAME communities?

- The phase three study of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine demonstrated a vaccine efficacy of 95%, with consistent efficacy across age, gender and ethnicity. Overall, among 8 | COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Comms Pack 2nd edition the participants who received the COVID-19 vaccine 82.1% were White, 9.6% were Black or African American, 26.1% were Hispanic/Latino, 4.3% were Asian and 0.7% were Native American/Alaskan.

Can you catch COVID-19 from the vaccine?

- No, you can not catch Covid-19 from the vaccine.

Can I transmit or pass on the COVID-19 infection to anyone after I had the vaccine?

- The vaccine will not give you COVID-19 infection. We do not know yet if the vaccine will stop you catching the virus and passing it on. What we do know is that if you did catch the virus, the vaccine will protect you and significantly lower the chance of you becoming unwell with it.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine contain animal products or gluten?

- The vaccine is Animal free, Gluten free, Potassium free and Sodium free
- If, and when, further vaccines are approved we will publish information about known allergens or ingredients that are important for certain faiths, cultures and beliefs.

Information and communications

Will information be stored securely?

- Yes, information will be stored securely and in accordance with data protection law and guidance. Your patient record will be automatically be updated on site to notify your practice that you have received your vaccine.

How can I find out more about the vaccine before committing?

- Appointments are going to be short because of the sheer numbers involved, and we will not be able to discuss the pros and cons of the vaccine at length. We will try to answer any concerns that you have as part of the consent process but please do your homework first to speed things up on the day. Information can all be found online here: [COVID-19 vaccination - a guide for adults \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90111/covid-19_vaccination_-_a_guide_for_adults.pdf)
- The medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), which approved the vaccine, has also produced an information leaflet which can be accessed here [Information for UK recipients on Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90111/covid-19_vaccination_-_a_guide_for_adults.pdf)
- The [British Islamic Medical Association](https://www.britishima.org/) has produced a position statement which can be found here: [Position Statement on the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine | British Islamic Medical Association \(britishima.org\)](https://www.britishima.org/position-statement-on-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine/)
- [In addition to the information above, you may want to invite patients to speak to their GP.](#)