



We'll come  
through this,  
*stronger  
together*

# Your COVID-19 vaccination

What to expect in Bolton



**Bolton**  
Clinical Commissioning Group

## COVID-19 VACCINATION

You'll have heard about the COVID-19 vaccine which is being rolled out across the country.

Led nationally by NHS England, this is the biggest vaccination programme our country has ever seen. Arrangements to get everyone vaccinated are moving very fast and are subject to many last minute changes.

Those set to receive the vaccine have been placed in priority order. This has been decided by an independent advisory group called the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) which regularly advises health departments on immunisation issues, such as flu and most recently the COVID-19 vaccine.

We are working hard in Bolton to get everyone vaccinated who is eligible.

## PRIORITY GROUPS

These groups have been selected as they are considered to be at the highest risk of death should they contract COVID-19.

### The full list includes:

Care homes	Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
80 yrs	All those 80 yrs and over and frontline health and social care workers
75 yrs	All those 75 yrs and over
70 yrs	All those 70 yrs and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
65 yrs	All those 65 yrs and over
Underlying health conditions	All individuals aged 16 yrs to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
60 yrs	All those 60 yrs and over
55 yrs	All those 55 yrs and over
50 yrs	All those 50 yrs and over

## OUR APPROACH IN BOLTON

In Bolton, we started vaccinating on December 15, 2020 with the over 80s, as advised by the JCVI. We specifically started in an area that had the most of this age group AND a suitable location to administer the vaccine - we have to follow strict criteria set out by NHS England.

This is a huge task for us and we have a lot of people to get through. It will take some time to work through the list, so please bear with us. But we'd like to assure you that if you are in one of the priority groups, you will be offered the vaccine when doses are made available to us.

We know that you will have many questions surrounding the vaccination programme and we will try to answer some of the most common ones within this leaflet.



## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### When will I receive my vaccine?

If you are in any of the nine priority groups you will be contacted by the NHS. When we know that a batch of vaccines is being delivered, you will be invited for your appointment. Your invitation may be by text, telephone or by letter and you could be asked to attend your own GP practice or another location.

**Here in Bolton, we're doing our best to reach everyone as soon as possible.**

Measures have been taken to keep you safe and to reduce the risk of infection, including social distancing, hand washing and sanitisation of equipment.

Our GP practices are working very hard to get the vaccine to everybody who needs it, while at the same time dealing with other patients' health concerns. If you need to contact your GP about anything other than the vaccine please do so in the usual ways.

If you are waiting to hear about your vaccination, please wait to be contacted and try to avoid contacting them for updates.

Don't worry – we will get in touch with everyone when we know the vaccine is being delivered.

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**You're wondering why a friend, neighbour or someone from another part of town has been called for their vaccination before you.**

Everyone is working really hard to get the vaccination programme rolled out to those who need it most.

The delivery of the vaccines is being led by NHS England and as soon as we receive deliveries we are working fast to get people vaccinated. We're unable to vaccinate everyone over 80 with the first delivery, but we are working as fast as we can.

There is more than one vaccine available and the storage, transportation and time frame for using the doses is dependent on which vaccine we receive.

We don't want to waste any opportunity to vaccinate people, so as soon as we know that vaccines are being delivered we are contacting people for their appointment. The vaccination programme is subject to last minute changes, but every area of Bolton will be covered.

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

**Where will I have my vaccination?**

More vaccination sites are being introduced in order to provide you with a choice. You could be contacted by your GP practice, either by text, phone or letter to make an appointment at your local vaccination centre. This could either be at your own GP practice or another site in Bolton.

Large vaccination sites have also been selected so they can vaccinate thousands of people each week. You may have already received a letter in the post giving you the option to attend a large site.

**You can take up this offer or wait until you're invited by your local GP.**

More local sites are likely to be introduced, including some managed by pharmacies.

If you've already received your first dose, please wait to be contacted about your second. You may already have an appointment arranged – please keep to those arrangements. You will be contacted soon if you haven't received any invitation yet.

**Please note:** our mobile teams will get to all care homes and anyone who is housebound will be contacted so we can make arrangements to vaccinate at home.

### What to expect when you have your vaccine

When it is time for you to receive the vaccine you may receive a text message, phone call or letter. This could be direct from your GP practice or a central NHS organisation.

You'll be given an appointment and it's important that you arrive on time. While it's tempting to turn up early, appointments are running to a strict schedule. This is so we can manage social distancing and help to minimise queueing or waiting.

- On arrival you will be greeted by a marshal who will take your details.  
**Don't forget your face covering!**
- You will then go through a short medical screening process to make sure you're fit to have the vaccine and you will be asked to give consent – to make sure you are happy to proceed with the vaccine.
- The vaccination itself takes a matter of seconds – this will be done in the top of your arm.
- Depending on which vaccine you receive, you may be asked to take a seat in a waiting area for 15 minutes, for observation. Then you'll be free to go!

### How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine encourages your body to make antibodies, which will be used to try and protect your body from the virus.

Both of the current COVID-19 vaccines are 'inactivated vaccines', which means they cannot give you COVID-19.

Vaccination will significantly reduce the chances of you catching the virus and becoming seriously unwell if you were to catch it. Even if you've already had COVID-19, the vaccine will ensure that your immunity to the disease is as strong as possible.

### Can I choose which vaccine I get?

There are currently two vaccines available in the UK and both give very high protection against COVID-19 and reduce the chances of getting seriously ill. Both require two doses, 12 weeks apart. The vaccine you are offered will very much rely on the type we are supplied with and we won't necessarily know which vaccine we'll receive until a day or two before.

Our ultimate aim is to vaccinate as many people as possible within a short timeframe, which means there is no choice of vaccine.



## Do the vaccines contain animal ingredients?

Both vaccines that are currently being used, do not contain any animal ingredients or egg.

Both vaccines are recommended by the British Islamic Medical Association: [www.britishima.org](http://www.britishima.org)

The ingredients have been reviewed by regulators and ingredients on both vaccines can be found on:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19)

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca)



## Remember...

COVID-19 is spread through droplets breathed out from the nose or mouth, particularly when speaking or coughing. It can also be picked up by touching your eyes, nose and mouth after contact with contaminated objects and surfaces.

Approximately 1 in 3 people who have coronavirus have no symptoms and could be spreading it without realising it.

### Hands. Face. Space

**Hands** – wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds

**Face** – wear a face covering in indoor settings where social distancing may be difficult, and where you will come into contact with people you do not normally meet

**Space** – stay 2 metres apart from people you do not live with where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings)

For further information on the COVID-19 vaccination please visit:  
[www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/patient-zone/coronavirus](http://www.boltonccg.nhs.uk/patient-zone/coronavirus)

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[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/)



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