Vaccination bookings
FAQs for people with Learning Disabilities

**Updated 20 April 2021** – this information is updated on a regular basis. Please check [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/vaccine](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/vaccine) for the most up to date information. If you would like help to understand this information, please email ACS.Covid@hertfordshire.gov.uk

1. **How can I get the vaccine?**
   You will be contacted by your GP surgery to be invited to attend an appointment for your first vaccine if you are registered with them as having a learning disability.
   
   If you believe you should be registered with your GP as having a Learning Disability, please contact your GP practice directly to discuss this.
   
   People with a Learning Disability are also now being given the choice to book a vaccine through the NHS coronavirus vaccination booking service ([www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination)) or by calling 119 free of charge if they can’t use the internet.

2. **Can my family/the person who supports me/anyone else get the vaccine as well?**
   Yes, your family carer will also be eligible for a vaccine and can request this when the GP surgery contacts you to organise an appointment. The GP surgery will tell you how to book your own and your carer's appointment.
   
   If you are using the [NHS booking service](http://nhsbooking.org), you can only only make an appointment for yourself. Eligible family carers can make their own appointment through the NHS booking service. There is no facility to ensure that the two vaccine appointments take place time at the same time.

3. **I’ve already had the vaccine.**
   Great. You will have already been informed about being invited back for your second vaccine within 3 – 12 weeks. It is important to have both doses to give you the best protection.

4. **How will my vaccine be booked?**
   All vaccinations are by appointment only. If you are registered with your GP as having a learning disability, please wait to be contacted by your GP surgery or alternatively use the [NHS booking service](http://nhsbooking.org).

5. **What do I need to take to my vaccine appointment?**
   When you are contacted, the NHS will tell you what ID you should take to the vaccination centre. You will need your NHS number which can be found on any
prescription or letter from the NHS. If you don’t know it, you can find it here: [NHS Number](#).

6. **Will the GP make reasonable adjustments if I need them?**

   Please plan ahead and talk to your GP about any reasonable adjustments that you need. There are some top tips on our website here: [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LD](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LD).

7. **What do I do after I have had the first dose of the vaccine?**

   It is important to have two doses of the same vaccine to give you the best protection. Your next appointment should be between 3 and 12 weeks after your first.

   You will be given a record card with your next appointment written on it. If you use the NHS vaccination booking service you can book your first and second appointment at the same time.

8. **I’ve had Covid within the last 28 days, what should I do?**

   Please wait for at least 28 days after the start of COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test before your vaccine appointment.

9. **I live in supported living or residential care, what should I do?**

   Your GP Practice will contact you and your Care Provider to notify them when they will be visiting your place of residence to administer your vaccine. If you do not receive confirmation of an appointment, please contact your GP surgery directly. You can also book a vaccine appointment using the [NHS booking service](#).

10. **After having the vaccine will I need to still follow infection control advice and wear PPE?**

    Yes. Once you have had your vaccine, it is still extremely important that you continue to remain vigilant and practice *hands, face, space and fresh air* at all times, and follow [government guidance](#) with regards to any restrictions in place.

11. **Is the vaccine safe?**

    The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through. The MHRA follows international standards of safety. See the [NHS website](#) for more information.

12. **Are there any side effects from the vaccine?**

    Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Not everyone gets them and most are mild or short-term effects. See the [NHS website](#) for more information.

    Even if you do have symptoms after the first dose, you still need to have the second dose.
The vaccine **cannot** give you COVID-19.

For the latest information on rare blood clots, see the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/) and [Public Health England’s guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccine-blood-clots).

**13. Who cannot have the vaccine?**

Please look at advice from the [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/) and also consult the [Green Book](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-book-revised-april-2021). If you’ve recently tested positive for coronavirus – even if you have no symptoms – you should wait until 4 weeks after the date you were tested before getting the vaccine. If you have a specific medical condition or allergy that is not covered in the advice please talk to your GP.

**14. What if I am pregnant?**

For the latest information, please see the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/) and [www.healthierfuture.org.uk/covid](https://www.healthierfuture.org.uk/covid).

**15. Will the COVID-19 vaccine affect my fertility?**

If you are planning to get pregnant, there is no evidence to suggest the vaccine will affect your fertility. There is no advice to avoid pregnancy after the COVID-19 vaccination. Please see the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/) for the latest information.

**16. Can I have the vaccine if I am breastfeeding?**

For the latest information, please see the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/).

**17. Do I have to have the vaccine?**

Whilst it is ultimately your choice whether you have the vaccine, keeping people with learning disabilities and our carers safe and well is one of our key priorities. So we encourage you to have the vaccine to protect yourself, your family and your friends. We understand that not everyone can have the vaccine for medical reasons.

**18. I am Clinically Extremely Vulnerable – will I be invited to have the vaccine?**

It is likely if you are registered as CEV that you will have already received your vaccine. If you have not received your appointment, please contact your GP surgery directly or book your appointment through the [NHS booking service](https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-covid-19-vaccination). If you are pregnant or aged under 30, see the latest advice on the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk/) on vaccines.

**19. Can I choose which vaccine I have?**

Different centres are offering different vaccines and we do not have any choice in this. If you think you have a health reason that will affect which vaccine you should have then you will need to contact your GP surgery.
If you are aged of 16 or 17 you will be offered the Pfizer vaccine only, because this is the only vaccine that is licensed for people within this age group.

20. Where can I get more information about the vaccine?
Please make sure you only rely on reputable sources of information when you are reading about the vaccine.

Hertfordshire County Council in partnership with the Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust has set up an information hub where you will be able to direct any questions you have or seek support and advice. You can contact the hub via email ACS.Covid@hertfordshire.gov.uk. You can also contact the Carers in Hertfordshire office on 01992 586969 and speak to a member of the Carers Support team who will also be able to assist or forward your query to the Hub who will in turn respond to you directly. The Hub is available Monday to Friday 09:00 – 17:30, any weekend queries will be picked up as soon as possible.

For more information on the vaccine, please see the following:

NHS information on the vaccine

For information about the vaccination programme in Hertfordshire and west Essex, visit www.healthierfuture.org.uk/covid

Easy read guide on Covid-19 vaccination

Vaccine information in community languages which includes messages from NHS doctors, nurses and other frontline staff about the vaccines