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COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ

Q. How do I get my vaccine?

A. There are 2 different ways to get your vaccine.

1. The surgery will contact you to book an appointment at the new local vaccination hub at Batchwood Hall, AL3 5XA.

OR

2. If you have received a letter from the NHS inviting you to book an appointment at a vaccination centre (our nearest one is in Stevenage), then you can follow the instructions in the letter to book your appointment here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

Even if you receive a letter from the NHS **you will still be invited to Batchwood** by us, so do not worry, and please don't contact the surgery.

You cannot book online for the centre at Batchwood.

Please DO NOT go to Batchwood without being invited by the surgery.

Q. How do I know when I will get the vaccine?

A. We will call you to arrange the vaccine date and time.

Q. When will I get my vaccine?

A. You will be contacted when your vaccination is available. This will happen in order of priority set out by national guidelines.

You should have the vaccine when it is offered to you if you are

- Living in a care home
- A frontline health worker
- A frontline social care worker
- A carer working in a care home for older adults

Then the vaccine will also be offered in age order to:

- those aged over 80 years
- those aged over 75 years
- those aged over 70 years
- adults on the NHS shielded patient list
- those aged over 65 years
- adults under 65 years with long term conditions (see list).
Those aged 50-64 will be offered it later.

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Clinical conditions list:

- a blood cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)
- diabetes
- dementia
- a heart problem
- a chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma
- a kidney disease
- a liver disease
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as HIV infection, steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy)
- rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or psoriasis
- have had an organ transplant
- had a stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
- a neurological or muscle wasting condition
- a severe or profound learning disability
- a problem with your spleen, eg sickle cell disease, or you have had your spleen removed
- are seriously overweight (BMI of 40 and above)
- are severely mentally ill

At the same time the vaccine will also be offered to:

- adults who provide regular care for an elderly or disabled person
- younger adults in long stay nursing and residential settings

More information about how the vaccine will be rolled out to groups of people in order of priority, starting with those who most need protecting from the virus, is on the [Why you have to wait for your Covid-19 vaccine](#) webpage or see a copy of the [Why do I have to wait?](#) leaflet.

Q. What happens at the vaccination centre?

A. Please follow the following guidance:

- Please arrive at the time of your appointment.
- Wear clothes so that the very top of your arm is easily accessible (there won't be anywhere for you to fully undress!)
- You must wear a face mask.
- Please bring a current prescription list if available. Bring your yellow book if you take warfarin.
- Wherever possible, please come unattended. Wheelchairs are available if needed. In case of need, please speak to one of our stewards who will help you.

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- You may need to wait outside for some time, so please come prepared to remain warm and dry if needed.

We will do some brief identification and health checks

You will promptly have your injection and then be asked to sit and wait for 15 minutes after the vaccination. Once the 15 minutes have passed, you will then be able to leave and go home.

Q. Where will I get my vaccine?

If you are contacted by the surgery, you will be able to have your vaccination at Batchwood Drive, St Albans, AL3 5XA.

If you receive a letter from the NHS, and you wish to book your own appointment in Stevenage, please follow the instructions in your letter.

Please note, there will be capacity for all Lodge Health Partnership patients at the centre in Batchwood, so this is completely your choice, but please do not contact Batchwood if you are trying to book an appointment yourself.

Q. I am housebound, so I can't travel to Batchwood. How will I get my vaccine?

A. We will contact you to arrange this home visit for your vaccination. If you are invited to come to Batchwood, it is highly likely you would receive the vaccination sooner by coming to the centre, so if you can make the short journey, then please do. The housebound service is for those patients who **cannot** leave their homes, not for those who are choosing to remain in their homes.

Q. Which vaccine will I receive, and can I request a specific vaccine?

A. Eventually all three approved vaccinations, Pfizer/BioNTech, Oxford AstraZeneca and Moderna will be available. You will receive whichever vaccine is in use on the day of your appointment. It will not be possible to request a specific vaccine

Q. I have allergies, can I still have the vaccine?

A. If you have had a serious (anaphylactic) reaction to any component of the vaccine, then you shouldn't have the vaccine. The list of components can be found here:

<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/excipients-information-for-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine/> AstraZeneca <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/excipients-information-for-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine/>

Individuals with a history of anaphylaxis to multiple drugs or to unknown causes, should be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine

Q. I take blood thinners. Can I receive the vaccine?

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A. Yes, but please advise the person giving you the vaccine before the give you the injection.

Q. Once I have received my vaccine, can I socialise with others who have also been vaccinated?

A. This is a really important question. Vaccination protects the community. It is may not protect every single individual. A small number of people will not be protected by the vaccine, and we don't know who this will be. We also don't yet know if the vaccine stops you passing on COVID-19. It is of the utmost importance that even after you and your loved ones have received the vaccine, that you continue to follow the guidance for social distancing and any other restrictions that are in place. Once the community infection rates fall, then restrictions will start to be lifted.

Q. I have recently had coronavirus, or think I might have developed coronavirus before my vaccination. What should I do?

A. Please **do not attend** for your vaccination if you have any symptoms that might be due to coronavirus:

- Fever
- Cough
- Loss or change of sense of smell

Attending a vaccination centre with those symptoms is putting other people at risk. You **should not have the vaccine** within 4 weeks of any coronavirus symptoms or within 4 weeks of testing positive for coronavirus even if you had no symptoms.

Q. I am pregnant or breastfeeding. Can I receive the vaccine?

A. If you are breastfeeding, you can receive the vaccine
If you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant, you should not receive the vaccine. The only exception to this is if you also have an underlying health condition that puts you at high risk of complications of coronavirus infection, or if you work somewhere where you at high risk of getting coronavirus such as a hospital or care home facility. Please discuss with a GP or your employer if this is the case.

There is further information you can read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-women-of-childbearing-age-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding#:~:text=There%20is%20no%20advice%20to,and%20then%20have%20the%20vaccination.>

GP Partners

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Q. My specific question has not been answered

A. Please look here for any further questions you may have:

<https://hertsvalleysccg.nhs.uk/your-health-and-services/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-know>