

Covid-19 Vaccine – for care home staff – 04.01.21



Louise Keane, Professional Education and Development Nurse, North London Partners

Richard Taylor-Elphick, Adult Social Care Programme Lead, North London Councils
Radha Shah Care Home Pharmacist Islington

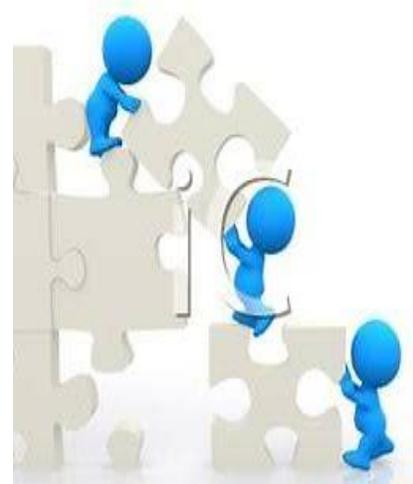


Vaccination is one of your most effective defences against COVID-19

Are the vaccines safe for me to take?

In the UK we have several organisations that all ensure medicine and vaccines are safe to use. They are called

- Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)
- Commission on Human Medicine
- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)



Currently the **Pfizer/BioNTech** and the **Oxford/AstraZeneca** covid-19 vaccines have been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)

Their role is to ensure public safety regarding medicine and medical technologies. They regulate and authorise medicine before being available for public use.

This means that MHRA oversees and ensured that the clinical trials of these medicines are robust and thorough enough to ensure public safety. They also go one step further by checking the integrity of the medicine by making sure they are manufactured and delivered with the same quality and safety as they were tested.



Medicines &
Healthcare products
Regulatory Agency

The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency agreed the safety of the vaccine.

The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory agency, started reviewing data on covid-19 vaccine since May 2020. They have reviewed

- Lab results
- Safety and effectiveness
- Clinical trails in humans
- Manufacturing and quality controls
- Product sampling
- Testing of the final product



The Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency agreed the safety of the vaccine.

- The vaccine has been through 3 phases of clinical trials. In the third phase it was given to more than 21,000 volunteers with no serious safety concerns.
- At your vaccine appointment you will speak to a clinician who will check **that you are suitable to receive the vaccine and can answers any that questions that you might have.**



Commission on Human Medicine



- Their role is to assess all the data before advising the UK government on safety, quality and effectiveness.
- Advising on applications for both national and European marketing authorisations
- Advising on the need for and content of risk management for new medicine
- Advising on the impact of new safety issues on the balance of risks and benefits of licensed medicines - e.g. adding warnings, restricting or suspending use of a medicine

A monumental effort

Covid-19 is a public health crisis.

We saw unprecedented

- Resource
- Funding
- Collaboration



That is why we are seeing vaccine projects move at a much faster pace than we usually do.

You may find this video useful to explain how the vaccine trial moved so quickly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddDiyIKUP0M>

The Joint committee on vaccination and Immunisation

Is an independent expert advisory committee that advises UK health departments on immunisation making recommendations concerning vaccination schedules and vaccines.

When formulating their advice and recommendations, they take into account the need and impact of vaccines, quality and strategies to ensure the benefit to public health can be obtained from the most appropriate use of the vaccine.

It has a statutory role in England and Wales, and health departments in Scotland and Northern Ireland may choose to accept its advice.

They developed the priority order for the Covid-19 vaccine in England.



Why are social Care staff and residents getting vaccinated first?

- The independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that the first priorities for any COVID-19 vaccine should be prevention of people dying and the protection of health and social care staff.
- Older people living in care homes have been affected by COVID-19 more than other groups, therefore the JCVI has recommended that they are the highest priority.
- As frontline staff you are more at risk of being exposed to Covid-19
- Over 80's are also being vaccinated.

With high rates of COVID-19, it's more important than ever to help stop the spread of coronavirus.



- For more on the priority list: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-2-december-2020>

Why should I have the vaccine?

Having the vaccine offers immunity, to protect you from COVID-19. The more people that have the vaccine, the more it will help to protect those most vulnerable in our communities such as care home residents.

Care Staff are at increased personal risk of getting COVID-19 due to their work
If care home staff get COVID-19 they are at risk of passing it on to residents
The more people that get vaccinated, the more we can protect the most vulnerable people including your own family

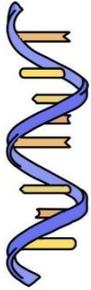
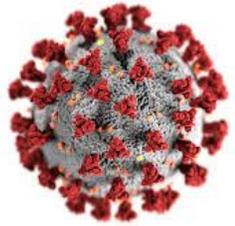


Why should the people I support have the vaccine?

- People that need social care services are more likely to become seriously unwell and more likely from to die from COVID-19 due to their age and underlying health conditions
- Care home residents are at higher risk of getting COVID-19 due to the environment that they live in



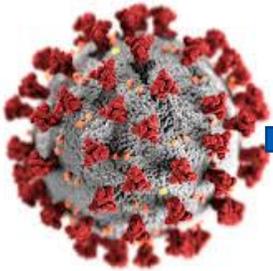
How does the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine work?



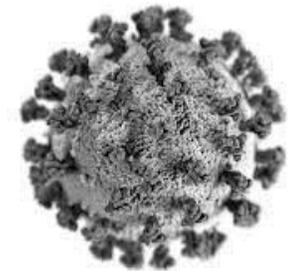
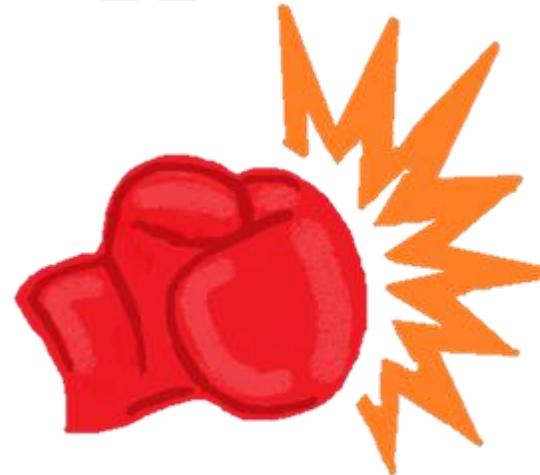
The scientist takes part of the virus to make the vaccine. This part of the virus **cannot** give you COVID-19



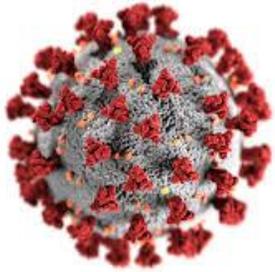
Once injected the immune system produces **virus fighters** called antibodies and T-Cells



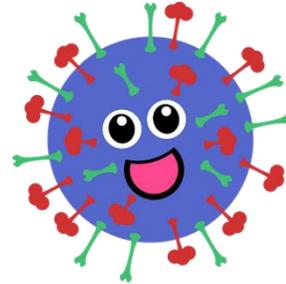
If you come into contact with COVID-19. The **virus fighters** (anti-bodies and T-Cells) remember it and can fight it



How does the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine work



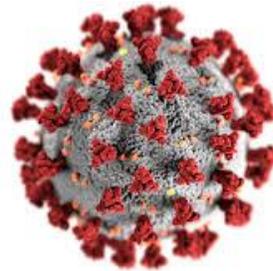
Instructions on how to make the protein found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus



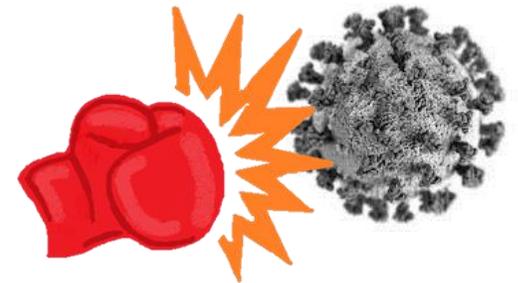
Are added to a **safe virus** to make the vaccine



Once injected the vaccine stimulates your immune system to produce **virus fighters** called anti-bodies and T-Cells



If you come into contact with COVID-19. The **virus fighters** (anti-bodies and T-Cells) can fight it



You can find a video about the Oxford vaccine here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUTRaOOblI8&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop>

Do I have to have the Vaccine?

- **No** you have the right to refuse
- Vaccines are not mandatory in the UK
- However we would encourage all staff to read information from credible sources to make an informed decision.



Will the vaccine give me covid-19?

- **NO** – you cannot catch Covid-19 from the vaccine, It is not a live vaccine therefore you would not be injected with the actual virus.
- It is possible you may have caught Covid-19 before being vaccinated and not realise until after you had the vaccine.
- If you have symptoms of covid-19 then you should self isolate and get a test



I have already had Covid-19, so do I still need the vaccine?

Experts do not know how long someone is protected from getting sick again after recovering from Covid-19. Evidence suggests natural immunity may not last long so there is a risk of getting re-infected with Covid-19 again.

Therefore it is vital to have the vaccine even if you have already been infected with Covid-19



Truth about the vaccine

You may have seen some false information about the vaccine on the internet.
The below statements are **truths** about the vaccine

The vaccine **does not** contain microchips

The vaccine only has what it needs to produce the fighting cells and thing to make it safe, able to be delivered and able to be stored.
Nothing goes into a vaccine unless it is absolutely needed

The vaccine **does not** alter your DNA

The vaccine only gets you to produce an immune response – the virus fighters

The vaccine **was developed** by taking part of the virus, **not** in an aborted male foetus

Vaccines are developed by taking parts of the vaccine itself. The parts of the virus in the vaccine cannot reproduce in your body and cannot give you COVID-19

The vaccine trials **were not** just in Africa

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trials were in the United States, Europe, Turkey, South Africa, and South America.
The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials were in the UK, Brazil and South Africa

Care homes **are not** being used a Guinea pigs

Care home residents and staff are high priority to receive the vaccine due to the risk they have of COVID-19

Are you pregnant, planning for a baby or breast feeding should I have the vaccine ?

- The vaccine has been shown to be effective and no safety concerns were seen in studies of more than 20,000 people. **However**, this did not include woman who were pregnant, planning for a baby or breastfeeding.
- The current advice is ask your GPs advice, but If you are pregnant or planning on getting pregnant within the next three months you should **NOT** be vaccinated as there is no published evidence/data yet to support its use in pregnancy.



Side effects

Like all vaccines Covid-19 vaccine can cause side effects, although not everyone will get them

There is a coronavirus yellow card reporting site, <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> where health professionals and people that have had the vaccine can report any side effects.

Most side effects are mild or moderate and go within a few days of appearing, they can be treated with medicine for pain and fever such as paracetamol

Very common may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- Pain at the injection site
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Joint pain
- Fever



Side effects

Common side effects may effect up to 1 in 10 people

- Injection site swelling
- Redness at the injection site
- Nausea

Uncommon side effects may effect up to 1 in 100 people

Enlarged lymph nodes.

Feeling unwell



A high temperature is not a typical reaction and may indicate that you have covid-19 or another infection.

Covid-19 vaccine and people prescribed anticoagulants

- **Individuals receiving direct oral anticoagulant (apixaban, dabigatran, edoxaban & rivaroxaban) or warfarin in therapeutic INR range or on full dose heparin or fondaparinux injections can all receive the COVID-19 vaccination**
- There is an increased risk of bruising at the injection site but no anticipated and serious effects related to anticoagulation
- After the injection prolonged pressure (at least 5 minutes) should be applied to the injection site to reduce bruising
- People on warfarin with supra-therapeutic INR should wait until their INR is <4.0
- We encourage patients to have vaccinations and they should not be avoided on the basis of being on anticoagulation
- People with inherited bleeding disorders such as Haemophilia need to seek advice from their own Haemophilia Centre to ensure they receive the vaccine safely

Whilst the vaccine will make us safer...

It's important to remember:

- No vaccine is 100% effective
- We do not know how long protection will last
- We do not know whether people that have been vaccinated can still carry and pass on the virus.

The vaccine is just one tool in our tool box to prevent COVID-19

Preventing outbreaks

Therefore we need to:

- Continue to wear PPE
- Continue to follow infection prevention control guidance
- Continue with testing
- Continue to follow guidance if anyone has symptoms COVID-19

You have all worked incredibly hard to prevent outbreaks and to protect residents so we want to emphasise this point.

The NCL Covid-19 care provider pack has lots of useful info:

<https://northcentrallondonccg.nhs.uk/my-health/covid-19/care-homes-support-and-guidance/>



Process to book

The specific details e.g. bookings are arranged **locally via your Council.**

In summary

