

Covid-19 vaccinations

National Context

Approved Covid-19 vaccines and delivery programmes

The Government is clear that vaccines are the way out of the Covid-19 pandemic; an effective vaccine is the best way to protect people from the virus and will save thousands of lives.

Following extensive safety trials and authorisation by the independent regulator, the MHRA, effective Covid-19 vaccines are available in the UK for free. The NHS is currently offering the vaccine to people most at risk from the virus:

- people aged 80 and over
- people who live or work in care homes
- health and social care workers at high risk

The Government has an ambitious timetable to deliver the vaccine. By 15 February they aim to have offered a first vaccine dose to everyone in the top four priority groups identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI):

1. all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals

The full Phase 1 priority list (groups 1-9) is available to view [online here](#).

As the first phase of the programme is rolled out, additional data will become available on the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines. This data will provide the basis for consideration of vaccination in groups that are at lower risk of mortality from Covid-19.

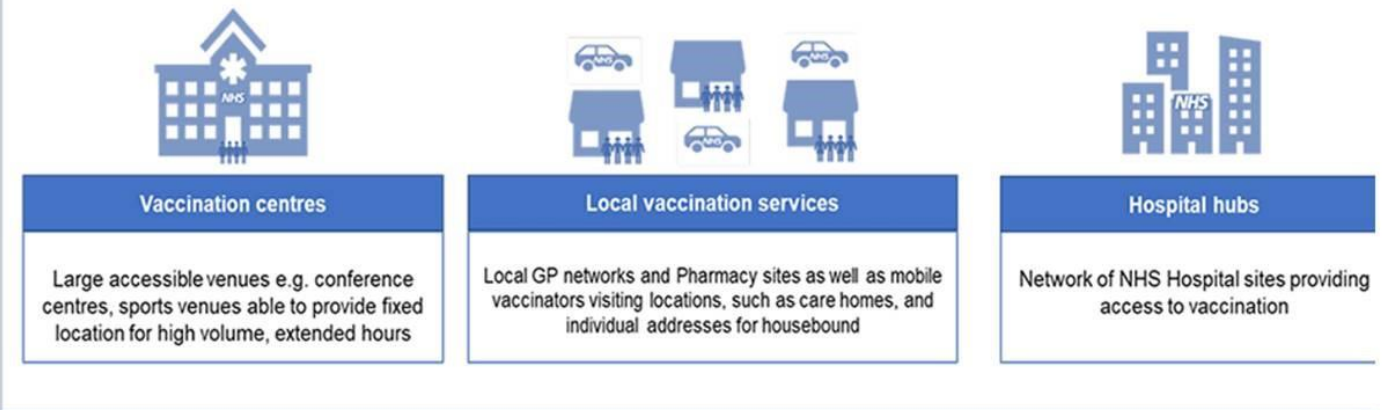
The UK has so far secured access to 367 million doses from seven vaccine developers across four different vaccine formats (or types). The vaccines currently approved in the UK are:

- [Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine](#)
- [Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine](#)
- [Moderna vaccine](#)

There are a range of vaccination sites which are carefully developed and located to ensure the right mix for the population – as outlined in the image below:

Delivery model overview

Delivery models have been defined centrally to ensure consistency in deployment across all regions. Each region will define the mix and number of delivery models required based on local demographics.



More information on the vaccine, the priority list and why people are being asked to wait is available on Gov.uk. Many of the guides are also translated into other languages and are also available in alternative formats:

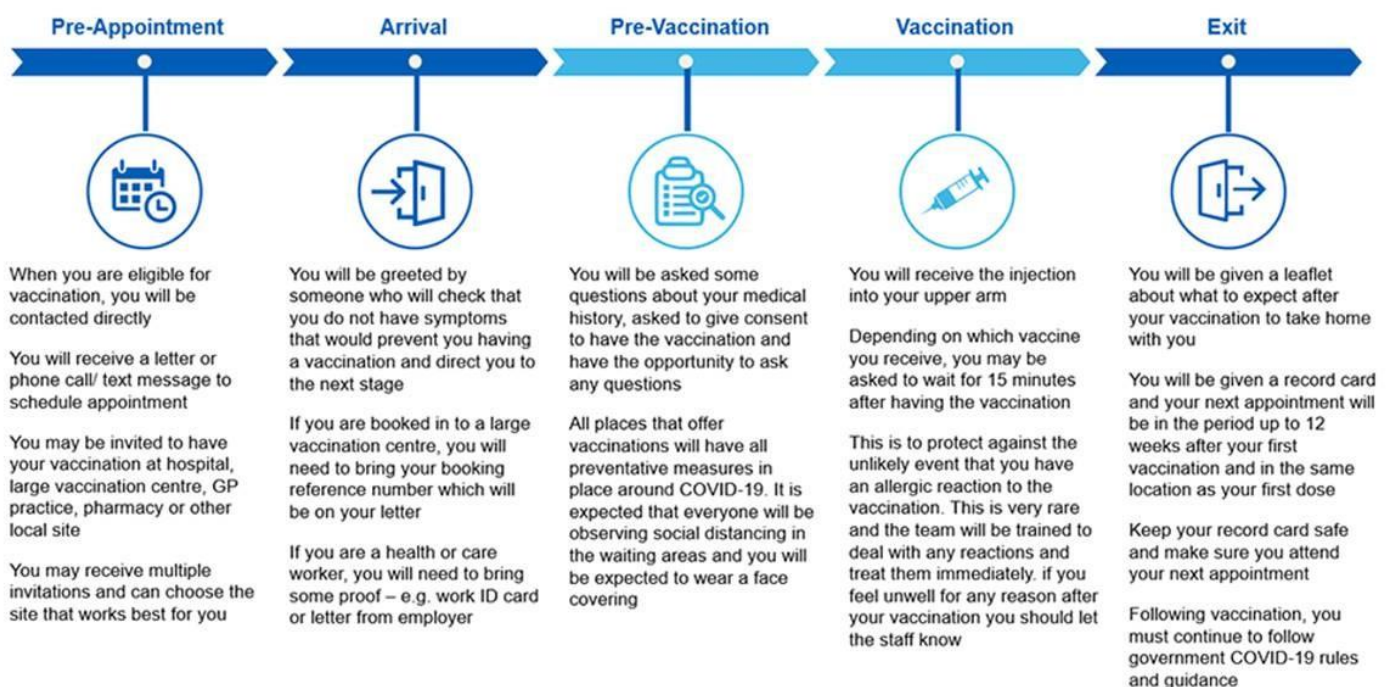
- [Covid-19 vaccination guide for older adults](#)
- [Why you have to wait for your Covid-19 vaccine](#)
- [Advice if you're pregnant, may get pregnant or are breastfeeding](#)
- [Why vaccines are safe and important](#)
- [UK Covid-19 vaccines delivery plan](#)

Vaccination user journey

When eligible, people will receive an invitation to come forward. For most, this will be in the form of a letter either from their GP or the national booking system; this will include all the information they need, including their NHS number.

Receiving the Covid-19 vaccine, or any other vaccine, is an important medical appointment and attending a scheduled vaccination appointment, is within the rules. Vaccinations will continue as normal in all areas through the national lockdown and beyond.

The whole journey is illustrated in the infographic below:



Post- vaccination

After the vaccination, people still must follow the rules in order to protect themselves and their family, friends and colleagues. It is important to:

practice social distancing

- wear a face mask
- wash hands carefully and frequently
- follow the current guidance

Second dose delay

Updated guidance from the independent JCVI and the UK Chief Medical Officers was [published](#) on 30 December. It recommends the need to increase the time between first and second doses for both the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

The statement from the four UK Chief Medical Officers outlines out the rationale for prioritising first dose vaccination: vaccinating twice the number of people in the next 2-3 months is preferable in public health terms to vaccinating half the number with only slightly greater individual protection. This public health approach is centred on doing as much good for as many people as possible in the shortest possible time and can be read in full [online here](#).

Vaccination data

The NHS has announced that, from yesterday (14 January), its daily and weekly Covid-19 vaccinations statistics will include statistics for vaccinations administered in Vaccination Centres, Hospital Hubs and Local Vaccination Service sites (e.g. GP practices).

The daily data publication contains the provisional number of vaccinations in England, showing the total first and second doses given as reported up until midnight on the date prior to publication. The weekly release then provides more accurate and detailed data by dose and age.

This weekly data publication currently includes data on:

- All NHS COVID-19 vaccinations administered in the reporting period
- Count of vaccinations by age band, defined as 80+ and under 80 years old
- Count of vaccinations by dose
- Count of vaccinations by NHS Region

View the data [online here](#).

NHS key messages for the public on Covid-19 vaccines

We all have an important part to play to help the NHS:

- Please do not contact the NHS to seek a vaccine - the NHS will contact you
- When you are contacted, please attend your appointments
- Continue to follow the rules (hands-face-space)

Local updates

Vaccinations in care homes

The County Council can report a snapshot on care home vaccinations, based on self-reporting by care providers. By Wednesday (13 January), 32% of care home residents and 30% of care home staff in Hampshire had received their first dose of a Covid-19 vaccination. This situation is progressing quickly, and further updates will be provided.

Vaccine sites

Across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, five hospital hubs, 36 Local Vaccine Services and one Vaccine Centre (currently focussing on health and social care staff) have gone live. A further hospital hub, three

Local Vaccine Services and three Vaccine Centres will go live over the next 2-3 weeks. (Members received the full list of locations via a separate communication from the Assistant Chief Executive on Friday 8 January).

Volunteer support

In Hampshire, Community Voluntary Sector run volunteer centres are actively supporting the vaccine effort by recruiting and mobilising local volunteers for the local centres being run by GP's and Primary Care Networks. Volunteers are being recruited for stewarding, marshalling and administration roles to help ensure the vaccination process runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible.

It has become clear that some patients need help with transport to get to vaccination centres, therefore Community Transport schemes are redeploying vehicles and drivers to assist. In addition, Good Neighbours and other groups are providing volunteer drivers enabling vulnerable and older residents to attend their vaccination appointments.

Key agencies with clinically trained volunteers including St John Ambulance, Hampshire Search and Rescue, RNLI are also being approached to recruit and train more vaccinators.

Vaccine scams

Hampshire Constabulary is urging residents to remain vigilant for vaccine scams, as reports of these are increasing across the country. They are reminding people that the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will not ask people to pay for the vaccine, nor will it ask for bank details.

Anyone who believes they may have been the victim of fraud should report it directly to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. If the victim is vulnerable, or there is a risk that someone has, or might come, to a victim's house, the crime should be reported to the police online or by calling 101.

Increasing uptake

The County Council is working to ensure there is high uptake of testing and vaccination in Hampshire, particularly within the defined vulnerable groups. A joint project with Public Health Hampshire and the Insight and Engagement Team is seeking to address barriers to vaccine uptake among the following groups:

- those who perceive themselves to be at low risk from Covid-19, e.g. young people;
- those for whom the vaccine has perceived low benefit such as people who have recovered from COVID-19;
- those who have difficulty accessing services or potentially lower trust in authorities.

The approach is evidence-led based on extensive reviews of existing and emerging research on barriers and successful practice, segmenting and profiling target groups, applying behavioural science and having regard to national and local NHS messaging.

The same evidence-based approach is being taken to informing messages on compliance with track and trace requirements (isolation and testing requirements) including learning from the mass testing scheme in Liverpool. The plan will include engaging with employers on encouraging and supporting employees to comply.

Steps have been taken to engage with BAME stakeholders including through a series of interviews and focus groups to inform the above approach and to use insight tools to target key groups. The County Council is also working with partners to promote the development of 'community champions' to support effective Covid-19 communications throughout Hampshire.

Covid-19 testing

National context

Current testing status

The pace of change in the testing arena has been considerable, with various nationally led programmes based on symptomatic testing and latterly testing for asymptomatic people.

Tests are available via the [NHS Test and Trace programme](#) and anyone with symptoms must get tested and then [self-isolate](#) until they get the result. The range of tests currently includes:

- **PCR** – These tests (sometimes called ‘swab’ or ‘antigen’ tests) check to see if someone is currently infected. The swab sample is taken from the nose and throat and then analysed in a laboratory.
- **Lateral flow device (LFD)** - Lateral flow antigen tests can be performed in a point of care setting and are often given to people without any symptoms of Covid-19. It involves taking a swab in the throat and nostril, then placing it in a test tube. They are rapid turnaround tests that can process samples on site without the need for laboratory equipment, with most generating results in under half an hour.
- **Antibody** - These tests check for antibodies to see if someone has had an infection with the virus in the past. This test requires a blood sample and is currently only offered to NHS and care staff, as well as some hospital patients and care home residents. They can also be bought privately, but it is important to be aware of their limitations.
- **Saliva test** – Using the LAMP technique, saliva samples are tested for the virus and the result will show whether someone has an active Covid-19 infection at the point of testing. Southampton City Council is currently running a saliva testing programme to evaluate its use in educational settings.

Community testing

The Government [announced](#) on 10 January that the community testing offer is to be expanded across all local authorities to test people without symptoms.

The objective is to roll out asymptomatic testing in specific geographic areas for a period of six weeks to break the chain of transmission, with a specific focus on people who currently must leave their house to work.

The Government will support the community testing programme until at least the end of March 2021, with continued provision of lateral flow tests, funding up to £14 per test and wider support from local liaison teams.

Government discussions continue with various organisations and national institutions to implement testing programmes for national supermarket chains, Police and Fire. The Government has also indicated that they will financially support employers with more than 250 employees to implement their own testing programmes. However, it is important to emphasise that this has yet to be agreed.

Staff testing in primary schools

On Wednesday (13 January), the Department of Education (DfE) confirmed that primary schools, including school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools, should expect to receive a delivery of home testing kits from 18 January for testing of staff.

Primary schools, including school-based nurseries, will receive sufficient test kits to test their primary and early years staff. Maintained nursery schools will also receive testing kits to offer to their staff. Private early years providers will be eligible for regular asymptomatic testing through local community testing programmes.

Testing for people travelling to England

From 4am on 18 January 2021, all international arrivals to England, including UK nationals, required to present a negative Covid-19 test taken up to 72 hours prior to departure. If individuals do not present proof of a negative test result when travelling to England, they may not be able to board and could be fined £500 on arrival. The Department for Transport has [issued](#) guidance.

Local updates

Testing sites

Residents across Hampshire may access testing if displaying symptoms at the Regional Test Site or any of the Local Test Sites across Hampshire. These test centres are supported by three mobile testing units that are allocated on a 4-weekly basis, across 18 geographical areas. In addition, two further local testing sites will open this month – in Andover and Ringwood.

Community Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing

The County Council placed an order for 16,000 tests in December 2020 and these were delivered by the Department of Health and Social Care on 12 January 2021.

Public Health Hampshire has worked closely with Adult Health and Care colleagues to ensure the careful prioritisation of these tests are given to groups that fall outside of any nationally led program i.e. care homes and extra care and supported living centers. The priority areas identified for LFD deployment from this initial tranche of LFD tests are:

- Day Services
- Approved Mental Health Professionals
- Social inclusion team
- Personal Assistants
- Voluntary, Community Sector (VCS) home help

A task and finish group has been established to work with service providers to ensure the appropriate training, guidance, distribution and governance is in place.

The County Council understands that it is a difficult time to be at work for key workers and those who are unable to work from home. While the County Council is exploring further options for more asymptomatic testing across Hampshire, it is important to highlight that testing is only one tool available to us, and simple measures to prevent Covid-19 spread can help to protect ourselves from infection and prevent transmission, particularly in workplaces. These include regular hand washing, wearing a mask, and social distancing (hands, face, space).

Outside of the County Council, LFD tests have very recently been made available to all asymptomatic patient-facing staff delivering NHS services in primary care. This covers all four primary care groups (medical, dental, optometry and community pharmacy).

Additionally, interim measures are in place to enable Hampshire Constabulary to utilise a small supply of LFD tests from DHSC, whilst the authority awaits the outcome from national conversations regarding the use of a national portal. The issue of administering LFD tests from home has been escalated.

National Covid-19 cases, deaths and vaccines data

The NHS Covid-19 vaccination daily data shows that within the reporting period 8 December 2020 – 14 January 2021, a total of **2,769,164** people have received the 1st dose and a total of **420,510** people have received the 2nd dose. The data, including the weekly statistical release, is available to [view online](#).

As of 4pm on 15 January, the total number of people tested positive for Covid-19 was **3,260,258** and daily number of lab-confirmed cases was **48,682**. The total number of Covid-19 associated deaths within 28 days of a positive test was **86,015**, with **1,248** deaths reported on the day. The data is available to [view online](#).

The R number range for the UK is **1.2- 1.3** and the growth rate range **+2% to +5%** per day as of 15 January.

Additional links

- Hampshire County Council webpages on coronavirus (including links to press releases): <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/coronavirus>
- Latest information on coronavirus: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
- NHS information on coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- FAQ from the Cabinet Office:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do/coronavirus-outbreak-faqs-what-you-can-and-cant-do>
- PPE guidance hub: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>
- Guidance for local government:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-local-government>
- County Councils Network (CCN) coronavirus information pages:
<https://www.countycouncilsnetwork.org.uk/coronavirus-information-for-local-authorities/>
- Local Government Association (LGA) councillor guidance: <https://www.local.gov.uk/covid-19-outbreak-councillor-guidance>

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