

## Vaccination Guidance Introduction

The Government is currently rolling out its national COVID-19 vaccination programme. This document sets out Independent Age's stance on people being vaccinated.

Independent Age cannot provide specific advice on whether you should have the vaccination or not, that is for discussion with a qualified medical professional. As an organisation we are encouraging people to consider getting vaccinated if possible as this will help protect us all from the impact of COVID-19.

If you have questions, we recommend you speak to your GP or look at the government's website for more information.

We will not be asking for or keeping data related to vaccinations.

The safety of staff, volunteers, supporters, and people who use our services, is the main priority for Independent Age. We will continue to provide our services, carefully following guidance issued by government, and we will assess each relationship or activity on a case-by-case basis.

Our staff and volunteers will be encouraged to use personal protective equipment (eg, face masks), and hand-sanitiser and to take precautionary measures as appropriate and in line with current government guidance.

## COVID-19 vaccination programme

Vaccinations are free of charge on the NHS. They are being administered according to a priority list at vaccination centres, including some hospitals, sports stadiums, conference centres and GP surgeries.

We encourage people who are not registered with a GP to do so as soon as they can. For more information on how to do this visit: [www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery)

## Individual's decision

We ask that, when a coronavirus vaccination becomes available, where people can, they take the opportunity to be vaccinated. We understand that this is ultimately everyone's individual choice, but we encourage everyone to make an informed decision by:

- reading up about COVID-19 vaccinations through official sources
- paying attention to the information the NHS provides when offering a vaccine
- being wary of misinformation around COVID-19 vaccinations put out by unreliable sources

## Further information

There are several different websites providing information on the national COVID-19 vaccination programme. Details for each website are given below.

- For details on,
  - the priority list for vaccination
  - vaccination of specific groups such as pregnant individuals and older people
  - what to expect after your vaccination, including guidance on returning to normal activities

**Visit:** [www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection-immunisation](http://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection-immunisation)

- For details on,
  - who can get a vaccination
  - the safety and effectiveness of being vaccinated
  - what to expect after your vaccination, including potential side effects.

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

Information on regional vaccination arrangements:

- **England** is available at [www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-programme/](http://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-programme/)
- **Northern Ireland** is available at [www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/northern-ireland-covid-19-vaccination-programme/](http://www.publichealth.hscni.net/covid-19-coronavirus/northern-ireland-covid-19-vaccination-programme/)
- **Scotland** is available at [www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/](http://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/)
- **Wales** is available at [www.phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information](http://www.phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information)].