



## COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Information

### Introduction to the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) has been working closely with local authority, public and third sector partners for months in preparation for the delivery of a Covid-19 vaccination programme to the population of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. Now that the first deliveries of vaccine have started to arrive in Wales we have been able to get started.

Delivering a mass vaccination programme at such a large scale is an enormous challenge, and requires a great deal of preparation and coordination to ensure it can be done safely. It is simply not possible to vaccinate everyone who is eligible for it at the same time, and therefore we have to sequence the invitations in accordance with the priority groups that are set nationally. It will take many months for vaccinations to be delivered to everyone who is eligible.

Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions which will provide some information about the vaccine and the process that we are undertaking in order to deliver it to our population.

### Who is eligible to receive a vaccine?

The priority groups of people who are eligible to receive the vaccine, are agreed at a UK level by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The priorities are based upon the risk of serious illness and mortality, and also the need to protect the health and social care services. The single greatest risk of illness and mortality from Covid-19 is increasing age, and there is also importance in protecting people who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions. This is the list of priority groups that the JCVI has agreed:

1. 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. Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (defined [here](#)).
5. All those 65 years of age and over.
6. All individuals aged 16 to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality.
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

### How will I be invited if I am in a priority group?

Invitations to people who fall into the priority groups 2-9 (except frontline health and social care workers) will be sent directly from the Health Board to individuals. You will receive a letter from the Health Board with information about how to book your appointment. We have a booking centre where all appointments are made over the telephone.

Frontline health and social care workers will be notified by their employer with information about to book an appointment. Employers may send an e-mail to employees or they may provide paper copies of the information, as appropriate. Employees will be asked to call the booking centre to arrange their appointments.

People living in care homes will be able to get their vaccinations through the Health Board's mobile teams and arrangements will be made for this.

### Where will the vaccinations take place?

The vast majority of vaccinations will be given to people at one of three Mass Vaccination Centres in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. We currently have one of these centres running in Splott, and two more due to open in January in Barry and Pentwyn. Some mobile teams will be able to visit care homes, and people who are unable to get to a centre. When you receive your invitation to book an appointment, you will be able to confirm the location to have your vaccination.

### When will I get my invitation?

The UHB is working hard, along with the rest of Wales, to ensure we can get invitations out to the priority groups as quickly as we can, but we have to do this in a manageable way. We have started with our care homes and health and social care workers initially, and within the next few weeks we will start to invite individuals from within the highest age cohort (people aged 80 and over). Following that we will work through the priority groups.

### How many injections will I need?

Currently, the COVID-19 vaccine will be given in **2 doses** on 2 separate occasions About 28 days apart. When booking your appointment both dates will usually be provided the same time. It is important that you attend both appointments to be fully vaccinated.

### What if I don't want the vaccine?

Having the vaccine is not mandatory, it is a personal choice.

### How safe is the vaccine as it's been developed so quickly?

For a vaccine to reach the general public it will have to work and be safe. There may be a misconception that vaccine research takes a long time but it isn't the research that takes the time – it's all the steps beforehand, like getting funding and approval. What's sped up in the development of a COVID-19 vaccine is the funding. The UK Government funded trials to get them up and running quickly.

### Is there anyone who should not have the vaccine?

The vaccine is safe for the vast majority of people, but there are some people who should not have it such as those who have a history of previous unexplained anaphylaxis or of immediate-onset anaphylaxis to a vaccine, medicine or food. Vaccination cannot be given within 4 weeks of a positive COVID-19 test or for 4 weeks after having symptoms of COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy is **not** currently advised. Women should not come forward for vaccination if they may be pregnant or are planning a pregnancy within three months of the first dose. Vaccination is also **not** advised if you are currently breastfeeding.

### How can I find out more?

For further information about the vaccine and the roll-out of the programme in Wales, please visit the Public Health Wales site where you will find a FAQ section as well as lots of helpful information:

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/>