**Covid Vaccination Key Messages**

**The National Booking Service (NBS) is open to everyone aged 18 and over who is registered with a GP in England** **to book for a vaccination.**

**Encouraging vaccine uptake**

Every vaccine makes a difference. If you receive an invitation, whether for your first or second dose, please act on it as soon as possible.

You do not have to be registered with a GP or have an NHS number to be vaccinated, but it is not yet possible to book an appointment via the NBS without one. For those not registered with a GP or without an NHS number, a growing number of walk-in and pop-up sites are available. Anyone in the UK can choose to register with a GP.

**Second doses**

Getting both doses of the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from the virus. The NHS is now inviting everyone over 18 to bring their second dose appointment forward to eight weeks to ensure everyone has the strongest possible protection from the Delta variant at the earliest opportunity; receiving the second dose at least eight weeks after the first offers the best protection.

The National Booking Service (NBS) has been updated too, so anyone who books their appointments through NBS will be offered their second dose appointment 56 to 84 days after their first dose appointment. Further details are available [here.](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/acceleration-of-second-doses-for-all-cohorts/) If you have attended a walk-in or pop-in session and already had an appointment booked via the NBS, please remember to cancel it by going online or by calling 119.

**Latest figures**

Thanks to the thousands of people involved, over 85 per cent of the population have now received their first dose of the COVID vaccine. Over 67 million doses have been delivered in total, with over 28.6 million second doses. This includes millions of health and social care workers, unpaid carers and people at higher clinical risk, for whom a second jab provides crucial protection. The latest vaccination figures are updated daily at [NHS England](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/).

**Vaccine effectiveness**

The [latest analysis](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/most-vulnerable-could-be-offered-booster-covid-19-vaccines-from-september) suggests that vaccines have so far prevented an estimated 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths in England alone.Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccines are around [75 to 80% effective at preventing death](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/996565/Vaccine_surveillance_report_-_week_25.pdf) with COVID-19 after a single dose.

Data on two doses is only currently available for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and indicates effectiveness against dying with COVID-19 of around 95 to 99%.

A [study from PHE](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/vaccines-highly-effective-against-b-1-617-2-variant-after-2-doses#:~:text=the%20Pfizer%2DBioNTech%20vaccine%20was,the%20B.1.1.7%20variant) found that vaccine effectiveness against the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant first identified in India, is similar after two doses when compared to the Alpha (B.1.1.7) variant first identified in Kent; we expect to see even higher levels of effectiveness against hospitalisation and death.

The first dose of both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine offer good levels of protection, but to get maximum protection everyone will need a second dose. Millions of people are now protected and this has contributed to dramatic falls in infections, hospitalisations and deaths.

**Students**

[FAQs are available](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/covid-19-vaccination-faqs-students-in-higher-education-institutions/) for students in Higher Education, which covers how students can access the vaccination, how they will be invited to get vaccinated, and FAQs for international students.