

Common questions and answers about the Covid-19 vaccine:

Do you get side effects from the vaccine?

Reports of serious side effects are very rare. Many people do not have any side effects at all after having the vaccine, those that do tend to have a sore arm around where they had the injection, headache, tiredness, and general aches or mild flu like symptoms which can last for 1-2 days.

There have been some cases of younger people fainting shortly after having the vaccine. This is not related to the vaccine itself. We advise people to ensure they have had something to eat and drink before they attend the appointment

There have been reports of an extremely rare blood clotting problem affecting a small number of people who have had the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. For those who are under the age of 40 in Barnsley will be offered the Pfizer vaccine.

There have been rare cases of inflammation of the heart reported after the Pfizer vaccine. These reports are extremely rare, and the events are typically mild with individuals usually recovering within a short time with standard treatment and rest

Is the vaccine Safe?

Yes, they have been approved by the Medicine and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and long-term side effects appear to be very rare. Vaccines for COVID-19 have been monitored in large numbers of people for many months in clinical trials and in the wider population, they continue to be closely monitored.

Is the vaccine safe for younger people?

The medicines regulator (MHRA), has confirmed the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for 12 to 17 year olds. This followed a rigorous review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccines in this age group. The UK has also benefited from having data from the US, Canada, and Israel, which have already offered vaccines universally to young people aged 12 to 15 years.

Can I have the vaccine during pregnancy or breast feeding and does it affect fertility/menstruation?

- *You can have the vaccine if you are pregnant. The vaccine cannot give pregnant women or babies COVID-19. Some pregnant women can get life-threatening illness from COVID-19, especially in the later stages of pregnancy and increase the risk of the baby being born prematurely, the vaccine offers the best protection against this.*
- *You can have the vaccine if you're breastfeeding- You cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccines and cannot pass it to your baby through your breast milk.*
- *You can have the vaccine if you're trying for a baby or might get pregnant in the future- There's no evidence the COVID-19 vaccines have any effect on your chances of becoming pregnant. There's no need to avoid getting pregnant after being vaccinated.*
- *There have been some reports that women have had temporary changes to their menstrual cycle after having the COVID-19 vaccine. These revert back to normal quickly.*

Why should I get the vaccine if I can still catch Covid-19?

Evidence shows that the vaccine:

- *Reduces the severity of Covid-19 disease.*
- *Reduces the chances of catching and spreading Covid-19.*
- *Reduces the long-term impact of the virus.*

Do I still need to get the vaccine even if I have had Covid-19?

Yes, it provides the best protection. You should still get vaccinated even if you have had covid-19, or tested positive for covid19 antibodies in the past. Vaccination should be postponed for at least four weeks (28 days) after the onset of symptoms or from the first positive test in those who did not have symptoms.