



Kensington Group Practice

DONEGALL ROAD AND FINAGHY
Medical Centre

INVITATIONS TO COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS HAVE BEGUN

We are now in the process of sending out invitations to our patients for the Covid-19 vaccination. We will be sending these out **STRICTLY** in the order prioritized by the Department of Health, starting with our most elderly patients first, but please be assured you will be invited in due course. Please click on the picture below, and view the leaflet later for newsletter, for information on this prioritization..

PLEASE DO NOT PHONE IN TO BOOK an appointment until you have received an invitation.

Whilst we will endeavour to vaccinate as many patients as we reasonably can, as quickly as we can, subject to supply, please **DO NOT PHONE IN TO ENQUIRE ABOUT TIME SCALES** as to when you will be invited, as you will understand it is not possible to provide these.

Due to operational reasons, it will only be possible to give vaccinations at our **DONEGALL ROAD SITE**.

This is a very significant undertaking for General Practice, but one we are very pleased, and privileged to be involved with, so we thank you in advance for your patience and understanding while we roll this out.



Please click on the picture to left, for regularly updated information from the Public Health Agency about the vaccination programme, including a helpful "Question and Answer" section.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY HAS NOW EXTENDED THE INVITATION FOR THE FLU VACCINE TO ALL 50 TO 65 YEAR OLDS, WHO WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN ELIGIBLE

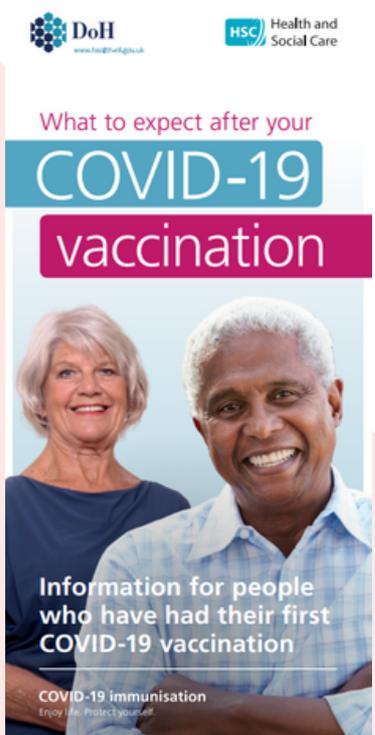
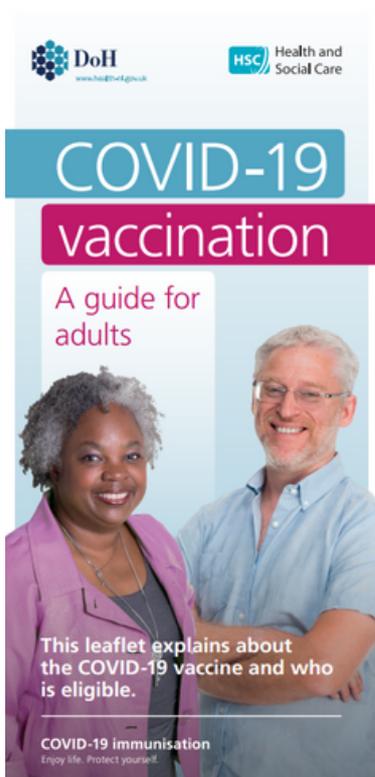
In other years, an invitation to receive a flu vaccine on the NHS would only have been sent to adults younger than 65 years old, if they fell into certain "at-risk" groups; examples include asthma, diabetes - a full list can be found here - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/flu-vaccine>

Today, the Public Health Agency extend this invitation to adults aged 50-65, who didn't fall into any of these groups; invitations are on their way, but if you are in this age group, and have not received an invitation for a flu vaccine this year, please contact the surgery to arrange an appointment, or book online.

It is important that you do not receive any other vaccine within one week of receiving the Covid-19 vaccine. So please contact us at your earliest convenience if you wish to avail of the flu vaccine, so you can receive your flu well in advance.

You can still receive the Covid-19 vaccine in due course if you do not wish to receive the flu vaccine.

Appointments remain available for those previously invited for a flu vaccine, who have not yet received it, as well as for Pneumococcal or Shingles vaccinations.



Please visit the leaflets to your left for more information about Covid-19 vaccination.

At the time these resources went to press, it was anticipated the two necessary vaccines would be given 21 or 28 days apart.

However subsequent to this, the four Chief Medical Officers have revised their guidance, indicating a longer interval. This is primarily to give a greater number of patients access to their first vaccination, which it is thought will provide the majority of the protection, at an earlier stage.

Further information can be found by clicking below.

Press release

Statement from the UK Chief Medical Officers on the prioritisation of first doses of COVID-19 vaccines

Joint clinical advice from the 4 UK Chief Medical Officers on the prioritisation of first doses of the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines.

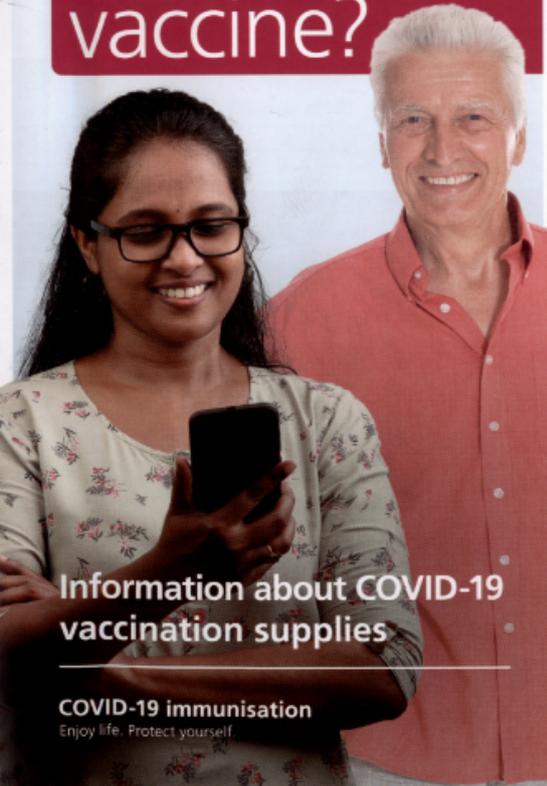
Published 30 December 2020

From: [Department of Health and Social Care](#)

Why do I have to wait for my

COVID-19

vaccine?



Information about COVID-19 vaccination supplies

COVID-19 immunisation
Enjoy life. Protect yourself.

People most at risk from the complications of COVID-19 are being offered the vaccine first.

In Northern Ireland, there are two types of COVID-19 vaccine to be used once they are approved. They both require two doses to provide the best protection. Both have been shown to be safe and effective in clinical trials.

An independent group of experts has recommended that these vaccines are offered first to those at highest risk of catching the disease and of suffering serious complications or dying from COVID-19. This includes older adults in care homes and frontline health and social care workers.

When more vaccine becomes available, the vaccines will be offered to other people at risk as soon as possible.

You should have the vaccine when it is offered if you are:



Then the vaccine will also be offered in age order to:

- those aged 80 years and over
- those aged 75 years and over
- those aged 70 years and over
- adults who are clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding)
- those aged 65 years and over
- adults aged under 65 years with long-term clinical conditions (see list).

Those aged 50-64 will be offered it later.

Please wait your turn. If you are not in the groups above, you will have to wait for a COVID-19 vaccination until more supplies are available.

When more vaccine becomes available we will be offering it to more groups of the population.

Long-term clinical conditions list:

- a blood cancer (such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma)
- diabetes
- dementia
- a heart problem
- a chest complaint or breathing difficulties, including bronchitis, emphysema or severe asthma
- a kidney disease
- a liver disease
- lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as HIV infection, steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy)
- rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or psoriasis
- liver disease
- have had an organ transplant
- had a stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
- a neurological or muscle wasting condition
- a severe or profound learning disability
- a problem with your spleen, eg sickle cell disease, or you have had your spleen removed
- are seriously overweight (BMI of 40 and above)
- are severely mentally ill

At the same time the vaccine will also be offered to:

- adults who provide regular care for an elderly or disabled person
- younger adults in long-stay nursing and residential settings

I am in one of the listed groups above, why do I have to wait?

The COVID-19 vaccines will become available as they are approved for use and as each batch is manufactured.

So every dose is needed to protect those at highest risk. You will be called in as soon as there is enough vaccine available.

Some people who are housebound or live in a care home and who can't get to a local vaccination centre may have to wait for supply of the right type of vaccine. This is because only some vaccines can be transported between people's homes.

Where can I get my COVID-19 vaccination?

Vaccines will be offered in a range of settings. Some vaccination teams will visit people to offer the vaccine, for example in care homes, other people may have to go to the nearest centre. Because some of the vaccine has to be stored in a very low temperature freezer, you may not be able to get the vaccine in your normal GP surgery.

What if the centre I am offered is not easy to get to?

Please try to attend the vaccination centre you are offered. If you cannot attend that centre you may have to wait to get the vaccine in a more convenient location.

Can I pay for a COVID-19 vaccine privately or at a pharmacy?

No, the COVID-19 vaccination is only available through the health service to eligible groups and it is a free vaccination.

Please read the product information leaflet for more details on your vaccine, including possible side effects, by searching Coronavirus Yellow Card.

You can also report suspected side effects on the same website or by downloading the Yellow Card app.



coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk

Vaccination, helping to protect those most vulnerable.

If you need more information on the COVID-19 vaccination please visit: www.nidirect.gov.uk/covid-vaccine