

## Student COVID-19 Vaccinations – Frequently Asked Questions

### When will I be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine?

The whole adult population, from 18 upwards, is now eligible to be vaccinated, so you probably are already eligible!

There are a few ways you may be invited for a vaccination:

- you may receive a text from 'NHSvaccine' inviting you to book your appointment, sent to the mobile number you gave your general practitioner (GP) when you registered
- you may also receive a letter from your GP
- your University/College may provide you with information on how to be vaccinated
- when the NHS vaccination National Booking System opens to people in your age group, you can [book your appointment online](#) or by calling 119.

Our local COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) is also planning to run 'pop up' and 'walk in' clinics aimed at students over the coming weeks. We will publicise these in partnership with our University and College sites.

We are not, currently, vaccinating people under 18 unless they have an underlying health condition that puts them at increased risk of a poor outcome from COVID-19.

### As an international student, can I get a COVID-19 vaccine in the UK?

Yes. All overseas visitors to England [can be vaccinated against COVID-19](#).

While we encourage international students who live in the UK to register with a GP in order to have the vaccine, this is not a requirement. You do not need an NHS number or to be registered with a GP and you should not be denied vaccination on this basis.

You can request to book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment as an unregistered patient through a GP practice.

International students who live in the UK need to [register with a GP](#) in order to access general healthcare in the UK.

### What if I've had a type of COVID-19 vaccine for my first dose that isn't available in the UK for a second dose?

If you have received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine overseas that is also available in the UK, you should have the same type of vaccine for your second dose.

In the UK the following COVID-19 vaccines are currently available:

- AstraZeneca
- Pfizer
- Moderna

If the vaccine you received for your first dose is not available in the UK, you should be offered the most similar alternative. Your GP or clinician will be able to advise you on this.

Further information for individuals who have received a COVID-19 vaccination overseas can be found [here](#).

**I'm registered at a GP practice in Bristol, North Somerset or South Gloucestershire but I am no longer in the area. Will I have to return to get my vaccine?**

No, you will be able to get your vaccine at a location which is convenient for you. When you are eligible to have the vaccine you can use the [National Booking System](#) to book your appointment.

You can also contact a GP where you are currently staying to explain your situation, who may also be able to offer you an appointment.

**I'm moving into the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area in September but I'm not yet registered with a GP practice in the area, how will I get my vaccine?**

You can use the [National Booking System](#) to book your vaccine at a location that is convenient for you.

You can also contact a GP where you are staying who may also be able to offer you an appointment.

If you are registered with a GP practice elsewhere in the UK you may also be invited to that practice to get your vaccine; please let them know your situation and that you will be booking your vaccine, elsewhere.

**I'm not going to be in the same place when it's time for my second vaccine, what do I do?**

If you have your first vaccine at a GP practice or at a 'pop up' clinic, for example at College or University, they will let you know what to do about your second appointment at the time.

This may mean returning to the GP practice or you may be asked to use the National Booking System to book your second vaccination, especially if you will be in a different location when your second dose is due.

If you have booked your first and second doses through the [National Booking System](#) you can use the 'manage my booking' function to cancel and amend your second appointment to a new location.

**I don't know my NHS number. Can I still book a vaccine appointment on the National Booking System?**

Yes, you can still book an appointment on the National Booking System even if you don't have your NHS number. You simply need your name and date of birth. You can also locate your NHS number using the [NHS website](#)

**What do I need to know before having my vaccine?**

Please remember to eat and drink before and after your vaccine, especially if you have a morning appointment. Don't forget to bring:

- A face covering, unless you cannot wear one for a health or disability reason
- Your booking reference number, if you have one
- If you need a carer, they can come with you on the day.
- If you have a disability that is hidden, please let a staff member know or wear your yellow sunflower lanyard. Staff and volunteers at the vaccination sites will then be aware that you may need additional support.

**What vaccine will I be given?**

If you are under 40 years old you will automatically be given an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine, you don't need to worry about the vaccine type. You are not able to choose which vaccine you have.

**Where can I find more information on vaccine safety?**

Information and advice on vaccine safety is available on the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Healthier together website which can be found [here](#).

The [NHS website](#) and [World Health Organisation](#) also have useful information on this topic.

**Can I have the vaccine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?**

Pregnant women are offered the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the rest of the population, based on their age and JCVI priority group. If you have concerns, you should discuss the benefits and risks of having the vaccine with your midwife or healthcare professional and reach a joint decision based on your individual circumstances.

If you have already had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, you should continue with your second dose.

If you are beginning your vaccination course, we will offer you an alternative vaccine to AstraZeneca. This is not due to safety concerns around AstraZeneca during pregnancy, there is just more data available for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines in pregnancy.

Women trying to become pregnant do not need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination and there is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility or breastfeeding.

**Where can I find more information on fertility and pregnancy?**

The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists has published [information](#) for healthcare professionals and pregnant women eligible for vaccination, including a [leaflet](#) to help you decide whether to have the vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccines available in the UK are effective and have an extremely good safety profile. They do not contain organisms that can multiply in the body, so they cannot infect an unborn baby in the womb.

More information on COVID-19 vaccines, fertility and fertility treatment is available from the British Fertility Society (BFS) and Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists (ARCS) [here](#).

The government has also published information for women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding [here](#).

**Where can I find more information about COVID-19 vaccinations in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire?**

Information is being continually updated on the BNSSG Healthier together website which can be found [here](#).