

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet (v4)

This sheet is to provide information regarding the Pfizer/BioNtech mRNA vaccine against catching COVID-19.

COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine BNT 162b2 (full name) is a vaccine used for active immunisation to prevent COVID-19 disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This vaccine is given to adults over 16. The Vaccine triggers the body's natural production of antibodies and stimulates immune cells to protect against COVID-19.

Tell your Vaccinator if you have:

- Had any previous reactions to THIS vaccine or its components (including polyethylene glycol)
- A severe illness with high fever. However, a mild fever or mild upper airway infection, like a cold, are not reasons to delay vaccination.
- Have had confirmed COVID-19 infection in the preceding four weeks.
- A weakened immune system, such as HIV infection, or are on a medicine that affects your immune system.
- A bleeding problem, bruise easily or are using a medication that inhibits blood clotting ("thins the blood")
- **Ever had a 'serious' allergic reaction (an anaphylactic reaction, or one requiring hospitalisation, or carrying an EpiPen/adrenaline auto-injector in case of a severe allergic reaction)**

Current data, looking at nearly 44,000 patients who have received the both doses of the vaccine, shows it to be effective in 95% of cases. This includes adults over the age of 65, people previously infected with COVID-19, and those in 'at risk' groups. In the unvaccinated group there were 172 cases of COVID-19 compared with only nine in the vaccinated group. Only one of these was severe. As with any vaccine, it may not fully protect all those who receive it.

Please tell the Vaccinator if you have received any other vaccines in the last 7 days, including your flu jab. **Do not have the vaccine** if you are **pregnant** or **breast feeding**. Although there is no evidence of harm, as a precaution you should **avoid becoming pregnant until at least 2 months** after this vaccine.

- You will need a second dose no less than 21 days later
- You need to have the same type of vaccine as the second dose
- Protection against COVID-19 may not be effective until at least 7 days after the second dose
- **You will need to be observed, on site, for 15 minutes** after the vaccination
- Do not change your behaviour after having this vaccine (ie. obey social distancing, good hand hygiene etc..)

Like all vaccines this COVID-19 vaccine can cause side effects, although most people do not get them.

Very common (over 1 in 10)	Common (up to 1 in 10)	Uncommon (up to 1 in 100)
Pain at the injection site	Injection site swelling	Enlarged lymph nodes
Tiredness	Redness at injection site	Feeling unwell
Headache	Nausea	Allergic reaction
Muscle or joint pain	Fever	
Chills		

There are also very rare side effects that can be attributable to any vaccine including Guillain Barre syndrome and transverse myelitis (both affect nerves or spinal cord). NONE of these conditions have been recorded in the 44,000 patients who have received this vaccine.

Information about COVID-19 vaccines is available at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation and www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine. For women of childbearing age, please read the detailed guidance at: www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination.