

Further information

For more details, visit the NHS website or read additional COVID-19 vaccination guides, including information for:

- Women of childbearing age or who are pregnant or breastfeeding
- People with weakened immune systems

For more information on the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, including possible side effects, visit:

- Pfizer: www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/15834/pil
- Moderna: www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/15915/pil

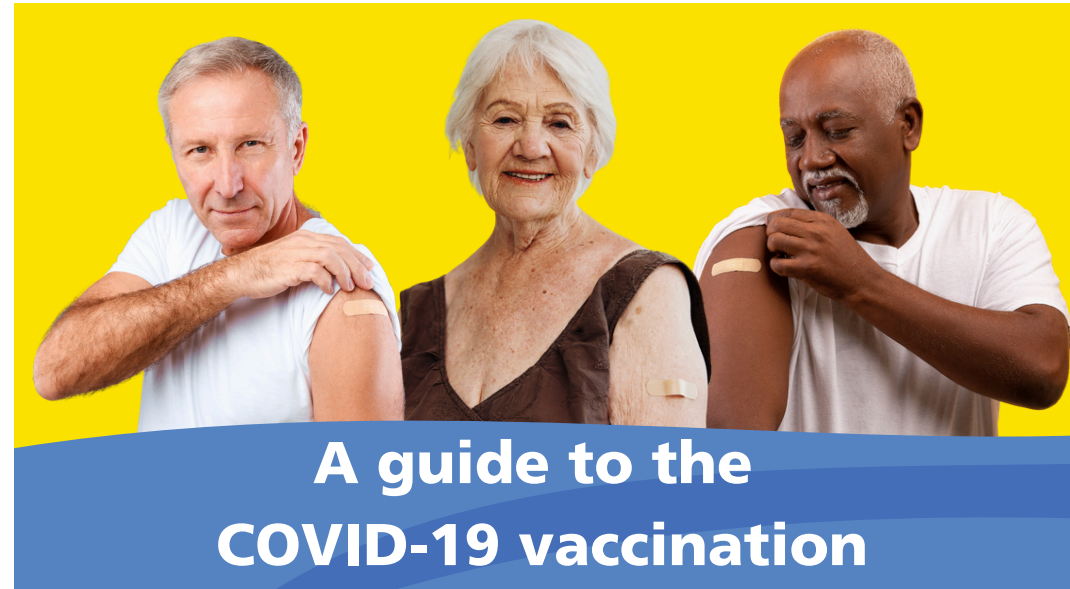
Report side effects

You can report suspected side effects via the Yellow Card scheme:

- Online at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard
- By calling 0800 731 6789 (Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)
- By downloading the Yellow Card app

Vaccinations in Somerset

Find out more about the Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination programme in Somerset, including advice for housebound: <https://bit.ly/covid-2026>



COVID-19 remains more serious for older adults and those with certain underlying health conditions. This spring, many respiratory infections, including COVID-19 and flu, are expected to continue circulating, putting local people at risk and placing increased pressure on hospitals and healthcare services.

To help protect those most at risk, the NHS is offering a COVID-19 vaccine from April 2026 to:

- People aged 75 years and over
- Residents in older adult care homes
- Individuals aged 6 months and over with weakened immune systems

This vaccination programme aims to reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalisation from COVID-19. If you are eligible, you will be invited to book your vaccination appointment.

Timing of your vaccination

You should be offered an appointment between April and June, with those at the highest risk being prioritised. You should receive your vaccine at least 3 months after your last dose.

Which vaccine will you be offered?

The vaccines available for the spring campaign are updated versions of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. These provide improved protection against newer COVID-19 variants. As we cannot predict which variants will circulate, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that these updated vaccines offer the best protection. You will receive the most suitable vaccine for you.

Who should not have the vaccine?

There are very few people who should not have this vaccine. If you have had a severe reaction to a previous COVID-19 vaccine, consult your doctor before getting vaccinated.

Side effects

Most side effects are mild and short-lived. Common side effects include:

- Soreness, heaviness, or tenderness in the vaccinated arm (typically worse 1-2 days after vaccination)
- Tiredness
- Headache
- General aches or mild flu-like symptoms

These symptoms usually resolve within a few days. Rest and paracetamol (following dosage instructions) can help relieve discomfort.

Rare side effects

In rare cases, inflammation of the heart (myocarditis or pericarditis) has been reported, particularly in younger men, within days of receiving the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Symptoms include:

- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath
- A fast, fluttering, or pounding heartbeat

Seek urgent medical attention if you experience these symptoms.

Can you still catch COVID-19 after vaccination?

The vaccine cannot give you a COVID-19 infection. The vaccine significantly reduces the risk of severe illness but does not guarantee complete immunity. Some vaccinated individuals may still catch COVID-19; however, the illness should be less severe.

