COVID-19 Vaccine

Easy Read Information
What is Coronavirus?
5. COVID-19 Vaccine - Easy Read information

What is Coronavirus?

It means wearing a face mask if you can when you are outside, at the shops or on public transport.

It means staying at least 2 metres apart from other people.

It means washing your hands often and especially when you have been outside.
What is Coronavirus?

All these things help keep the virus under control.

The other thing that will help us get back to normal is for everyone to take a medicine called a vaccine.
What is a vaccine?
What is a vaccine?

A vaccine is something that can stop people becoming ill or dying from a certain illness.

The flu jab is a kind of vaccine.

Before 2020 there was not a vaccine that helped to stop people getting ill with COVID-19.

In February 2020 scientists started working to create a new vaccine that would stop people becoming ill and dying from COVID-19.

Lots of scientists from all over the world have been working on different vaccines.
How do we know it is safe?
How do we know it is safe?

It is safe.
It works.
You do not need to worry

Once scientists create a new vaccine they have to test it to see if it works.

They test the vaccine by giving it to a group of people and then waiting.

They wait to see if the people get sick from COVID-19.

If the vaccine works then it would stop most people from getting ill with COVID-19.

It would mean less people would get sick.

It would mean that less people would die with COVID-19.

When scientists tested some of the vaccines that they have invented for COVID-19 they found that they worked.

The vaccine stopped a lot of people from getting sick with COVID-19.

It also stopped people dying from COVID-19.
How do we know it is safe?

The government is not allowed to offer people a vaccine if they do not have proof that it is safe. The scientists did they tests to find out if their vaccine worked.

They found that it did.

They then give all the information from their tests to the government.

This is the second step is getting a vaccine to people.

Experts in science and medicine look over all the information from the tests.

Their job is to check that there is proof that the vaccine is safe.

They also look for proof that it works.

When they did this for some of the vaccines for COVID-19 they agreed that it worked.

They also agreed that it was safe to give the vaccine to people.
How do we know it is safe?

Once they agree that the vaccine works and is safe the government is allowed to start giving it to people.

The government can give 2 different kinds of COVID-19 vaccines to people right now.

One of them is a vaccine made by 2 companies called Pfizer and BioNTech.

Another is made by a company called Astra Zenica and was made with scientists from Oxford University.

The two vaccines work in different ways. But the two vaccines do the same things.

The two vaccines both stop people dying from COVID-19.

The two vaccines stop a lot of people from becoming sick with COVID-19.
How does the vaccine get into my body?
Both COVID-19 vaccines are given to people 2 times.

That means you get one jab.

Then a little while later you get the same jab again.

This helps to make sure you are protected from getting sick for longer.

Both of the vaccines are given to people as an injection.

Sometimes we call this a jag or a jab.

A nurse of doctor will give you the vaccine.

The vaccine is put into a syringe.

The syringe needle then goes inside your arm and the vaccine is injected.

This is what feels like a jag or a jab.

Most people who have had the jag already said that it does not hurt.
When will I get offered the vaccine?
When will I get offered the vaccine?

Scientists are making as much of the vaccine as they can.

The government decides who will get offered the vaccine when.

They are offering the vaccine to the people most likely to get really sick with COVID-19 first.

The groups of people who are being offered the vaccine now are:

- People who live in a care home.
- People who work in care homes.
- People who are over the age of 70.
- People who work in hospitals.
- People who work as carers and support workers.
- People who have downs syndrome.
- People who have a serious illness.

Once all these people have been given their first jab then the vaccine can start to be offered to other groups of people.

It will include people who have severe and complex learning disabilities.
How will I know when it is my turn to be offered the vaccine?
How will I know when it is my turn to be offered the vaccine?

When your turn comes you will be sent a letter.

The letter will say that you are being offered a vaccine for COVID-19.

If you get a letter and don’t understand what it says, ask someone you trust to help you read it.

The team at ENABLE Scotland are happy to help with this.

It will tell you where you must go to get your vaccine.

It will tell you what time you must be there to get your vaccine.

It will tell you everything else you need to know about getting your vaccine.
Where will I go to get my vaccine?
Where will I go to get my vaccine?

Once the vaccine is made it gets sent to places all over Scotland.

These places are called vaccination centres.

It can sometimes be a hospital.

It can sometimes be a GP surgery.

It can sometimes be a community centre or town hall.

Don’t worry about where you are offered your vaccine.

Every vaccination centre will be clean and safe.
Can I take someone with me to get my vaccine?
Can I take someone with me when I go to get my vaccine?

You should be able to take someone with you to your appointment.

You should only take someone to your appointment if you need to.

You can take someone to support you.

They should be able to stay with you during your jab.

If you are worried you could ask the person you want to take with you to call the telephone number on your letter and check that it will be okay for them go with you.
Do I have a choice to get the vaccine?
Do I have a choice to get the vaccine?

Yes.

You have the choice.

You do not need to have the vaccine even when you are offered it.

You can say no.

If you say no you will not get the vaccine for COVID-19.

You should think about this carefully.

It is safe.

It is the best way you can help stay safe from COVID-19 and get things back to normal.
What if I am worried about getting the vaccine?
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**What if I am worried about getting the vaccine?**

If you are worried about the vaccine you should talk to someone you trust.

You can talk to anyone from ENABLE Scotland if you are worried about the vaccine.

They can help you find out about the things that worry you.

If you have a fear of needles or injections then you should tell the person who is giving you the jab.

They will be understanding and they will support you.

You could also speak to someone you trust and ask them to help you write done the things that would help you to relax and get ready to have the jab.