**Updated information for GPs to use for websites / newsletters**

The NHS is now offering vaccinations to people who are most at risk from Covid-19. This follows the approval of both the Pfizer BioNTech and Oxford AstraZeneca vaccines as safe and effective, after extensive trials.

The first vaccinations are being offered to people in the [priority groups](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-why-you-are-being-asked-to-wait/why-you-have-to-wait-for-your-covid-19-vaccine) identified by the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), starting with people in care homes and those aged 80 and over. Groups of GP practices are working together to provide local vaccination services and will contact eligible patients when it is their turn.

When it is your turn, you will receive an invitation via the phone or through a letter either from your GP or the national booking system.

We know lots of people will be eager to get protected but please could we kindly ask you **not to contact the practice** for information about the vaccine or to ask for an appointment, as you will not be able to get one until you receive an invitation.

If you are invited for a vaccine, please act on your invite straight away and make sure you attend your appointments when you arrange them.

Please note that **vaccinations are free of charge and only available through the NHS.** Anyone who claims to be able to provide you with a vaccine for a fee is likely to be committing a crime and should be reported to the Police online or by calling 112.  The NHS will never ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text asking you to confirm you want the vaccine.

In the meantime, please continue to abide by all the social distancing and hand hygiene guidance, which will still save lives.

**For more information about the vaccine, please visit** [**www.nhs.uk**](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/) **or see these frequently asked questions. (add link)**

**Patient information leaflets**

There are also a number of patient information leaflets available on the [West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health & Care Partnership website](https://www.wyhpartnership.co.uk/our-priorities/coronavirus-covid-19-information-and-resources/vaccination). This includes:

* COVID-19 vaccination – a guide for adults
* COVID-19 vaccination – a guide for those currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding
* What to expect after your Covid-19 vaccination
* Why do I have to wait for my Covid-19 vaccine?