



Why do I have to wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine?



This document was written by **Public Health Wales**. It is an easy read version of '**Why do I have to wait for my COVID-19 vaccine?**'

January 2021

How to use this document



This is an easy read version. The words and their meaning are easy to read and understand. But you may need support to read and understand this document.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. They have been explained in a box below the word. If the hard word is used again it is in **normal blue writing**.



For more information contact:

Website:

[111.wales.nhs.uk/coronavirus\(2019ncov\)](https://111.wales.nhs.uk/coronavirus(2019ncov))



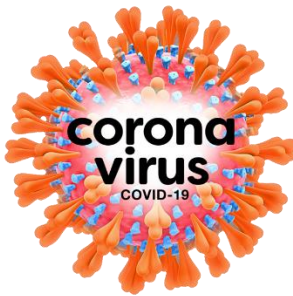
Phone: 111 or **0845 46 47** if 111 is not available in your area

Calls to NHS 111 Wales are **free** from landlines and mobiles. Calls to 0845 46 47 cost 2p per minute on top of what your phone provider charges.

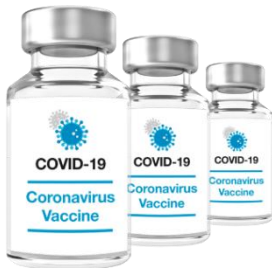


This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**.

Why do I have to wait to get the COVID-19 vaccine?



COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus called **Coronavirus**. **COVID-19** is a new illness. It is the reason we have had to stay home and wear masks.



A **vaccine** is a medicine that helps keep you safe from catching an illness.



The **COVID-19 vaccine** might help stop you catching **COVID-19**.



There are more than 3 million people living in Wales.



We cannot give everyone the **vaccine** straight away because:

- it takes time to make the **vaccine**
- it takes time to give everyone their 2 **vaccine** injections

Who will get the COVID-19 vaccine first?



We have listened to doctors and other experts. We have agreed to give the **vaccine** to people most at risk first.



We will give the **vaccine** first to people who are:

- older people living in care homes
- people who work in health and social care like nurses, doctors and carers



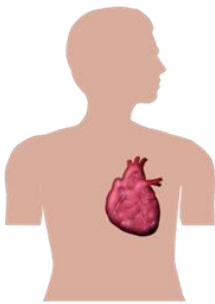
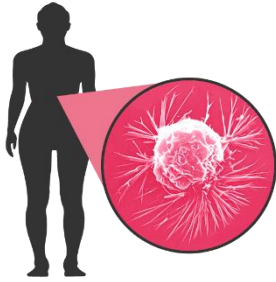
The **vaccine** will be given to these people in this order:



- people who are 80 years old or older
- people who are 75 years old or older
- people who are 70 years old or older and adults who are likely to get very ill if they catch **COVID-19**
- people who are 65 years old or older
- people who are aged 16 to 64 years with **long term health conditions**



Long term health conditions are things like:



- blood cancer
- diabetes
- heart problems
- chest or breathing difficulties. Like bronchitis or very bad asthma
- kidney disease
- liver disease
- epilepsy
- dementia
- a severe or profound learning disability
- you have had a stroke
- you have had an organ transplant
- you can catch other illnesses easily because of an illness you have or medicine you take
- being very overweight
- severe mental illness
- a problem with your spleen



Some people on this list may be at a very high risk of getting very ill from **COVID-19**. They will be offered the **vaccine** at the same time as people who are 70 years old.



You will also be offered the **vaccine** if:

- you are an adult who cares for an old or disabled person, who would be at risk if you got ill
- you work in a nursing home or care home for younger adults
- you live in a nursing home or care home for younger adults

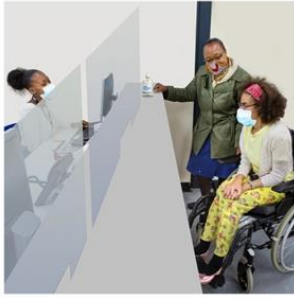


Once all these people have had the **vaccine**, people aged 50 to 64 will be offered the **vaccine** next.



Later on more groups of people will be offered the **vaccine**.

Where can I get the COVID-19 vaccine?



To get the **vaccine** you may have to go to a **vaccination centre** near to where you live.



A **vaccination centre** is a place set up to give people the **vaccine**.



Some people will be visited at their home to get the **vaccine**. Like people who live in a care home.



If you cannot get to the **vaccination centre**, you may have to wait to get the **vaccine** somewhere else.



You cannot pay to get the **vaccine** done anywhere else.

More information



You can find out more about the **vaccine** on the NHS 111 Wales website:

[111.wales.nhs.uk/coronavirus\(2019ncov\)](https://111.wales.nhs.uk/coronavirus(2019ncov))

and

www.gov.uk/government/collections/mhra-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19

If you have any **side effects** after having the **COVID-19 vaccine**, please go to the website and fill in the form:

coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk



Side effects are when you take a medicine or have a **vaccine** and it makes you feel ill. **Side effects** do not happen to everyone and usually do not last long.



Find out how the NHS uses information about you on the NHS 111 Wales website:

111.wales.nhs.uk/lifestylewellbeing/yourinfoyoursrights

Get more copies of this leaflet from the Public Health Wales website:

phw.nhs.wales/services-and-teams/health-information-resources

© **Public Health Wales, January 2021**

Version 1 ISBN: 978-1-78986-154-143