

## COVID VACCINES

The Pfizer BioNTech vaccine has now been approved for use and the NHS will be starting to offer this to priority groups as soon as supplies arrive. Initially, it will be only be available at a few hospital hubs where it can be stored safely and it will be offered to those most at risk of Covid-19 first.

When further supplies or alternative vaccines become available, they will be offered from a number of different locations to make sure everyone who needs a vaccine is able to get one. We will share these details with patients as soon as they are confirmed.

Please could we kindly ask you **not to contact the practice** for information about the vaccine as there is not currently any further information available and it may stop someone who needs urgent medical help getting through to us.

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### **When will a vaccine be available?**

The first deliveries of the vaccine should be during w/c 7 December and the NHS is ready to start offering them as soon as they arrive to those who need them most.

### **Who will get a vaccine?**

The vaccine will be offered to those at greatest risk from Covid19 first, starting with people living in care homes, people over 80 years old and frontline health and social care workers. This is based on the guidance from the Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations which is available [here](#). As more supplies of the vaccine or alternative vaccines become available it will be rolled out in phases to people aged between 80 and 50 and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable. People will be invited for a vaccine when it is their turn so they do not need to contact their practice or the NHS.

### **Where can I get a vaccine?**

To start with, vaccines will only be available at hospital 'hubs' where the Pfizer vaccine can be stored safely. However, arrangements are also being put in place to offer vaccines from a number of different locations as more supplies and different vaccines become available. These include local vaccine services provided by GPs and pharmacists and new dedicated vaccination centres to make sure that everyone who needs a vaccine is able to get one.

### **Further information**

We will share further information with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, there are three things people can do to help:

- Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine - we will contact you when it's the right time to you to have yours
- Please act on your invite when it comes, and make sure you attend your appointments when you arrange them;
- Please continue to abide by all the social distancing and hand hygiene guidance, which will still save lives.