

11 Jan 2021

COVID-19: Vaccination

A UK wide vaccination programme is now in progress for priority groups

- **This updates the news item of 30 December 2020**

On 2 December 2020, the UK medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved the first COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine) [1, 2].

On 30 December 2020, a second COVID-19 vaccine (Oxford University/AstraZeneca) was given regulatory approval by the MHRA after meeting required safety, quality and effectiveness standards [3].

On 8 January 2021, a third COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna) was given regulatory approval by the MHRA [4].

The UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised on [priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination](#). Vaccinations are currently being offered to these groups. The NHS will contact individuals to let them know when it is their turn to have the vaccine [5].

Having studied the evidence on these vaccines, the JCVI has advised priority should be to give as many people in at-risk groups their first dose in as short a time as possible. Everyone will still receive a second dose and within 12 weeks of their first. The second dose completes the course and is important for longer term protection [6].

International travellers have not been identified as a priority group [7]. NaTHNaC is closely monitoring recommendations and will provide travel related updates as relevant.

For health professionals, [guidance on COVID-19 vaccines and vaccine use](#) is available [8, 9]. Further details are available on [GOV.UK: Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

There are other vaccines under development and/or awaiting approval. Further information can be found on [World Health Organization](#), [GAVI](#) and [MHRA](#) websites.

References

1. [Department of Health and Social Care. News Story. UK authorises Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. 2 December 2020. \[Accessed 30 December 2020\]](#)
2. [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. UK medicines regulator gives approval for first UK COVID-19 vaccine. 2 December 2020 \[Accessed 30 December 2020\]](#)
3. [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Oxford University/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine approved. 30 December 2020. \[Accessed 30 December 2020\]](#)
4. [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Regulatory approval of COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna \[Accessed 11 January 2021\]](#)
5. [NHS Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine. 18 December 2020. \[Accessed 30 December 2020\]](#)
6. [Department of Health and Social Care. Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine authorised by UK medicines regulator. 30 December 2020. \[Accessed 30 December 2020\]](#)

7. [Department of Health and Social Care. Priority groups for coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination: advice from the JCVI, 30 December 2020. \[Accessed 11 January 2021\]](#)
8. [Public Health England. COVID-19: the green book. Chapter 14a. Last updated 31 December 2020. In: Immunisation against infectious disease. \[Accessed 11 January 2021\]](#)
9. [Public Health England, COVID-19 vaccination programme. Last updated 18 December 2020. \[Accessed 30 December 2020\]](#)