FAQ’s for you and your team

**Do we need to continue with testing once residents and staff have received the vaccine?**

Please continue with your current testing regime. We don’t know when this might change

**Will we still need to follow infection prevention control and wear PPE once a resident has received the vaccine?**

Please do continue all your hard work in relation to infection prevention control and continue to wear PPE. We don’t know when this might change. The vaccine is one tool in our toolbox against COVID-19,

**If staff have had the vaccine can they work freely in different homes** Please continue to follow current guidance at present

**If I’ve had the Covid-19 vaccine, can I still infect other people?**

The Covid-19 vaccine should protect you from becoming sick, but it won’t stop you from infecting other people. So, it is really important that you continue to remember hands, face, space. Wash your hands, cover your face and keep your distance from people. During the winter when people tend to spend more time indoors, it is a good idea to have a flow of air, for example by opening windows sometimes.

**Do we need to have anaphylaxis training?**

The staff administering the vaccine will have had anaphylaxis training.

**I am allergic to eggs and cannot have a flu jab because they use egg to culture the vaccine. Is it the same with COVID-19 vaccines?**

Neither the Pfizer jab, Moderna or Oxford/AstraZeneca – are made using eggs so there should be no issue for people with egg allergies.

**Does the vaccine contain animal products?**

The vaccine **does not** contain any animal products

**Do we need to have the vaccine if we have already had COVID-19 and if we have antibodies?**

Yes, we would recommend still getting the vaccine. The vaccine may offer longer protection then natural protection.

**Can residents have the vaccine if they currently have COVID-19?**

Provisional guidance from Public Health England says that vaccination should be delayed in those with confirmed infection to avoid confusing any symptoms. They recommend that vaccination should ideally be delayed until the person has recovered, and at least four weeks after symptoms or a positive test.

**How long do you have to wait between the flu jab and COVID vaccine?**

Provisional guidance from Public Health England recommends that there should be at least seven days between another vaccine and the COVID vaccine.

**Does the vaccine contain a microchip?**

The vaccine **does not** contain a microchip

**Does the vaccine alter your DNA?**

The vaccine **does not** alter your DNA

**Was the vaccine tested in Africa?**

The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine trials were in the United States, Europe, Turkey, South Africa, and South America. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine trials were in the UK, Brazil and South Africa.

**Can staff who are pregnant receive the vaccine?**

No, the vaccine should not be given in pregnancy, nor if someone if hoping to conceive in the next 2 months. It is also not to be given if someone is breastfeeding.

**I am part of the Muslim community and I am worried about receiving the vaccine – how can I find out more?**

Information about the vaccination programme is available on the [Muslim Council of Britain](https://mcb.org.uk/resources/coronavirus/#vaccine) website, and from the [British Islamic Medical Association](https://britishima.org/operation-vaccination/hub/covidmyths/). Both sites examine frequently asked questions and look at the truth behind each statement

**Will other measures (social distancing/face coverings/lockdowns) still apply to me if I’ve had the vaccine**?

Yes, you should still act to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the community and stick to the regulations.

**Once we get a vaccine, can we end restrictions and lockdowns?**

An effective vaccine will be the best way to protect the most vulnerable from coronavirus and the biggest breakthrough since the pandemic began. It will be a huge step forward in the fight against coronavirus, potentially saving tens of thousands of lives. Once vaccinations begin, the Government will closely monitor the impact on individuals, on HSC pressures and on the spread of the virus.

The full impact on infection rates will not become clear until a large number of people have been vaccinated, but as larger numbers do get vaccinated, we will hopefully move further along the path back to a more normal way of life.

As large numbers of people from at risk groups are given a vaccine, the Government will be able to examine the impact on infection rates, hospitalisation and reduced deaths; if successful this should in time lead to a substantial reassessment of current restrictions. Given the numbers of people to be vaccinated it is likely to be many months before the full impact of the programme is seen in the community.

**Will the vaccine become a yearly injection like the flu vaccine?**

Booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine are not yet recommended because the need for, and timing of, boosters has not yet been determined.

**How effective is the first vaccine injection without getting the second one?**

It is important to have both doses of the vaccine to give you the best protection. While the first dose acts as an important immune response primer, the second dose is needed to boost your body’s immune response to the COVID-19 virus providing the best protection for you