

COVID-19 vaccine Statement of facts information in English

- The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19. If you do get COVID-19, the vaccine reduces your chances of developing serious or life-threatening symptoms.
- The COVID-19 vaccines have been through the same safety checks as any other, are safe and effective and are approved for use in the UK. They do not contain any animal products or egg. They have been tested on tens of thousands of people from many backgrounds, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.
- COVID-19 vaccinations are free of charge for everyone in Scotland. No immigration checks are required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and NHS Scotland does not pass patient details to the Home Office for the purpose of immigration enforcement.
- There is no need to contact your local GP or NHS Health Board to arrange an appointment – you will be contacted by letter or by phone when it is your turn to be vaccinated.
- When you're invited to get the vaccine, please go. The sooner we are all vaccinated, the sooner we can get back to doing the things we've missed. If you need an interpreter, one can be arranged for you by contacting your local NHS Health Board.
- Like all vaccines, you may experience some common side effects, but these are usually mild and shouldn't last longer than a few days. For example, you may have a sore arm where the needle went in, a headache, feel sick, tired or achy.
- There is no evidence to suggest that the COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility. You do not need to avoid pregnancy after receiving the COVID-19 vaccination.
- The COVID-19 vaccines are not thought to be a risk when breastfeeding. Experts have recommended that the COVID-19 vaccine can be given to women who are breastfeeding. If you are breastfeeding, or planning to breastfeed, you can continue breastfeeding after vaccination. However, there is a lack of safety data on the use of COVID-19 vaccines while breastfeeding or their effect on the breastfed infant.



All information noted in this document is correct at time of publishing – May 2021

- Although the vaccine will reduce your chances of becoming seriously ill, you could still catch COVID-19 and spread it. After you've had your vaccine, it's important that you continue to follow the latest government advice.
- Roll up your sleeves, get the vaccine and share this information with your friends, family and colleagues.
- If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine or call the COVID-19 vaccine helpline on 0800 030 8013 which is available 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week. Information is available in different formats and languages at nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccineleaflets