

FQA's

When will I get my vaccine?

The order in which people will be offered the vaccine is not determined by the practice but based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation (JCVI). Presently the priority groupings are set as:

1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. all those 65 years of age and over
6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. all those 60 years of age and over
8. all those 55 years of age and over
9. all those 50 years of age and over

details of who has been prioritised in group 6 can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-care-home-and-healthcare-settings-posters/covid-19-vaccination-first-phase-priority-groups>

Can I change the group I am in?

We are not able to alter or amend these priority lists but will be working through them as quickly as vaccine supply and delivery allows so please do not telephone the practice to ask to discuss this or ask which category you are in. If you do have a query then please email the practice at Barntgreen.surgery@nhs.net. **Reception will not be answering any queries regarding this as constant calls regarding this matter is stopping patients getting the urgent medical help that they need.**

If your consultant is telling you that you need your vaccination sooner than your grouping then they have a pathway they can refer you in to and you will need to call them to organise this.

We would ask you to email the practice as soon as possible if you are a healthcare worker who has yet to have the first dose of their vaccine.

Can I get the vaccine if I am pregnant?

There's no evidence the COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe if you're pregnant. But more evidence is needed before you can routinely be offered it. The JCVI has updated its advice about the vaccine and pregnancy which can be read at : <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

I have asthma – when will I get the vaccine?

There has been a lot of speculation in the press recently regarding this but presently guidance states *‘that only those people with asthma who require regular systemic steroids (oral, non-inhaled steroids) or who have a history of hospital admission would be considered eligible for group 6 vaccination’**

The practice will update this information if that guidance changes.

How will I know when it is my turn?

The NHS will write to you. You can then choose to go online to book your appointment with another provider or you can wait for the practice to contact you. We work through the priority groups above for each delivery we receive.

How will Barnt Green Surgery contact me?

Either by text or telephone. If we have been unsuccessful we may then send a letter

Where will the vaccine be given when I am offered it by the practice?

The Pfizer-bioNtech has extremely strict cold chain requirements which make it unsuitable to be used at an individual general practice basis. We have established a local hub where our patients will be vaccinated. Our local hub is based at BHI Parkside (B61 0AZ).

The AstraZeneca vaccine is easier to transport and use, we may be able to run some clinics at the surgery but may also run others at BHI Parkside so we don't disrupt the practice too much should we be doing large numbers of patients. The venue will be made clear to you at the time of appointment booking.

Which vaccine is best?

The best vaccination is the one that you get the earliest. We recommend to our patients, friends and family that they take up any vaccination as soon as they are eligible and it is offered.

How many doses are there?

Both vaccines currently used require two doses to be given. The JCVI changed the priority in January and is focussing on giving as many patients as possible the first dose with the follow up planned 12 weeks or so later.

As no deliveries are scheduled in advance we cannot currently book the second dose in but will contact you to do so as soon as we can, NHSE allow, and we have vaccine availability.

Why is there such short notice when being offered the vaccine?

We receive very little notice of vaccine deliveries currently and need to use them very soon after arrival. The logistical challenges of contacting and booking in hundreds of patients in a few days is immense and we won't have a range of days or times available.

Can I just turn up at the end of a session and get a vaccine?

No. The surgery books its clinic's based on the number of vaccines available. If a patient cancels or does not show up, the practice actively calls patients to ensure it can use all the vaccines available, hence sometimes patients being recalled at really short notice

How do I get my second dose?

The practice will contact all patients, towards their 12th week, that had the first dose of their vaccine booked by the practice to offer them an appointment for the second dose.

If you used another provider we will only be able to offer you a second vaccine if we have any surplus vaccine available or are offered a further supply. Please do not keep calling the surgery about second doses. We will update our website and facebook page with information about clinic's available when we have it.

What can I do to help?

Please make sure we have your correct contact details (you can email barntgreensurgery@nhs.net to update your details). We are unlikely to get much notice of vaccine delivery dates and our reception and admin team have a huge task to contact all eligible patients and so we will need phone numbers, ideally mobile.

Please do not contact us to check when you will be vaccinated. As soon as we get confirmation of delivery we contact patients in JCVI list order. We are currently running our normal service as well as a Covid vaccination service and the demand to answer individual queries of this nature is causing immense pressure on our phone lines and stopping patients with urgent medical needs from getting access to the practice.

* <https://www.bmj.com/content/372/bmj.n430>