

The  
**COVID-19**  
vaccine

# What to expect after the COVID-19 vaccine



Don't forget  
your second dose

This leaflet tells you what to expect after the COVID-19 vaccine that you were given today.

If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit **[nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](https://nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)**

This information is a guide only. Always get medical advice from **NHS24** free on **111** if you're worried about your health.

For more information on potential side effects and vaccine ingredients, visit **[nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](https://nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)** for links to the patient information leaflets.

# It's important to get two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine will be given in two doses. You will be advised when to return for your second dose.

**It is important to get both doses to protect yourself against COVID-19.**



Second dose given between 21 and 28 days after the first dose.



first dose



second dose

A dose means each time the vaccine is given.

**Don't forget your second dose.**



2nd dose due:

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## Common side effects

Some people may experience side effects after the vaccine. These are usually mild and may include:

- tenderness, swelling and/or redness at the injection site
- headache, muscle ache
- feeling tired
- fever (temperature above 37.8°C).

A less common side effect is swelling of the glands. This starts a few days after the vaccine and may last for up to two weeks. This is to be expected and is a sign of the immune system responding to the vaccine.

If you feel uncomfortable, take paracetamol. Make sure you take paracetamol as directed on the label or leaflet.

These common side effects are much less serious than developing COVID-19 or complications associated with COVID-19, and they usually go away within a few days.

## Fever after the vaccine

It's quite common to develop a fever after a vaccination. This normally happens within 48 hours of the vaccination and usually goes away within 48 hours.

You do not need to self-isolate or book a COVID-19 test unless you have other COVID-19 symptoms or:

- you have been told by NHS Test and Protect, or your occupational health team, that you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- you live with someone who has recently tested positive for COVID-19
- you live with someone who has symptoms of COVID-19.

If the fever starts more than 48 hours after the vaccination or lasts longer than 48 hours, you should self-isolate and book a COVID-19 test. This can be done at **[nhsinform.scot/testing](https://nhsinform.scot/testing)**

# Reporting side effects

As with all vaccines, you can report suspected side effects through the Yellow Card Scheme. You can report side effects of the COVID-19 vaccines online at:



**[coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk](https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk)**

You can also call the Yellow Card hotline:



**0800 731 6789**

(available Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm)

Information correct at time of publication.

Please visit

**[nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](https://nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)**

for the most up-to-date information.

# Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

It is not known whether having the vaccine stops you spreading the virus to others so it's important that we all continue to follow the latest government advice.

After you get the vaccine, it's still important to follow **FACTS**:



**FACE COVERINGS**



**AVOID CROWDS**



**CLEAN HANDS**



**TWO METRES**



**SELF-ISOLATE**

**Stopping the spread starts with all of us.**

**Thank you for protecting yourself, others and the NHS.**



Translations



Easy read



BSL



Audio



Large print



Braille

For more information, including other formats and translation support:



[nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](https://nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)



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