

Boots Private COVID-19 Vaccination Service – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Which vaccination is used for the Boots Private COVID-19 Vaccination Service?

The service uses the Comirnaty® (Pfizer-BioNTech) vaccination.

How is the vaccination given?

The vaccination is administered by intramuscular injection into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. We recommend that you wear a short-sleeved top or loose-fitting clothing for your appointment.

Are there any side effects?

As with all vaccinations, there can sometimes be side effects in some people. The most common side effects with the Comirnaty® vaccine are pain and swelling at the injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills or fever. Most side effects are usually mild or moderate and short-lived. If you have any concerns, speak to your pharmacist or doctor.

How long does protection from the vaccination last? Will I need a booster dose?

It's not clear how long protection from a single dose lasts and this can vary from person to person. We recommend that you leave a gap of at least three months between doses.

Does the vaccination contain egg?

No, there are no egg products in the vaccination.

Is it a live vaccination?

No, it's an inactivated vaccination.

Can I have the COVID-19 vaccination at the same time as other vaccinations?

Yes, the vaccination can usually be administered at the same time as other vaccinations, such as a flu vaccination.

I'm just recovering from a COVID-19 infection, can I still be vaccinated?

Please wait until you've recovered as we cannot vaccinate anyone who currently has COVID-19 or who has had it within the last two weeks.

Can I have the vaccination if I take certain medicines or have a health condition?

As part of the consultation, we'll ask some questions about your medical history so that we can check that the service is suitable for you. For example, if you have a bleeding disorder or if you are taking an anticoagulant medicine, the vaccinator will check that vaccination into a muscle is suitable.

The service isn't suitable for anyone who has ever had a generalised allergic or anaphylactic reaction to a previous vaccination or injection, anyone who has had blood clotting problems after a previous COVID-19 vaccination, anyone with a history of inflammation of the heart muscle (myocarditis) or lining of the heart (pericarditis), or anyone who has ever had a bone marrow transplant, CAR-T immunotherapy, Guillain-Barré syndrome or capillary leak syndrome. This is not a complete list and suitability will be checked before the vaccination is given.

Can I have the vaccination if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding?

Yes, the vaccination is suitable for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding. Please note that in some areas, the NHS offers free COVID-19 vaccinations to pregnant women, so you may want to check if you can have this free of charge before booking and paying for our private service.

Can I get a COVID-19 vaccination free of charge on the NHS?

In some areas, the NHS (or HSC in Northern Ireland) provides COVID-19 vaccinations free of charge to pregnant women, those aged 65 and above, and those aged under 65 who have a health condition that could increase their risk of becoming seriously ill if they catch COVID-19.

The NHS programme usually runs during spring and autumn.

Some Boots stores may offer the free NHS or HSC vaccination at certain times of the year. Please see our website for details. Alternatively, ask your GP if you think you may be eligible.

I've booked and paid for an appointment online. How do I change it?

You can change your appointment by going to My Orders in your account [here](#).

I've paid online but I no longer want the vaccination. Can I get a refund?

Yes, you can cancel your order by going to My Orders in your account [here](#). This will refund the payment to your original payment method. Please allow up to 14 days for the refund to appear on your account.

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