

Our COVID-19 vaccination programme



Since the announcement about the vaccines in December, we've been leading on work to start vaccinating patients registered at three Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Manchester - The Robert Darbishire Practice PCN, Gorton and Levenshulme PCN and West Central Manchester PCN. That's a total of 17 different GP practices!

This has been a huge task involving a lot of different people from a lot of different organisations. But we worked quickly. Our first vaccination clinics were held between 16-18th January and in those three days we vaccinated 1149 patients.

Our vaccination clinics are being planned around the days when we expect to receive a supply of vaccines, and we are contacting patients when it's their turn to book an appointment for the vaccine.

At the moment, all of our vaccination clinics are being held at The Jain Community Centre in Levenshulme—not at any of the GP practices.



What you need to know.....

When will I get my COVID vaccination?

All GP practices are being asked to offer the vaccination first to people who are at greatest risk of catching COVID-19, and to people who are likely to get extremely ill or die if they caught COVID-19. So we're inviting older people and those with underlying health problems first. **Please wait your turn**—we will contact you when it's time for you to book an appointment.

Can I catch COVID-19 from the vaccine?

No, the vaccine will not give you the COVID-19 infection.

I've already had the flu vaccine—do I need the COVID-19 vaccine as well?

Yes, because the flu vaccine doesn't protect you from COVID-19. If you've had the flu vaccine, you should wait at least a week before you have your COVID-19 vaccine.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine contain animal products or gluten?

No, the vaccine does not contain any animal products or gluten.

Why do I have to go to The Jain Community Centre for my COVID vaccination?

Right now we have to vaccinate a lot of patients very quickly, but we can't let patients leave the practice as soon as they've had it—we need to observe patients for 15 minutes afterwards. Unfortunately we don't have enough space in our waiting rooms to do this and follow the rules about social distancing at the same time. We've got all the space we need at The Jain Centre though!



Will the vaccine have side effects?

All medicines can cause side-effects. Most of these are very mild and short term though, and not everyone gets them. The most common side effect of having the COVID 19 vaccine is that the arm in which you had the injection may feel sore and tender for a few days afterwards. You might also have mild flu like symptoms. If you do, rest and take the normal dose of paracetamol to help you feel better. If your symptoms get worse or if you are concerned, call NHS 111.

Can I pass on the COVID-19 infection to other people after I've had the vaccine?

We don't know yet if the vaccine will stop you catching the virus and passing it on. So even when you've had the vaccine, it's really important that you **continue to follow all the guidelines on social distancing, wearing a face mask and washing your hands frequently** to reduce the spread of the virus. What we do know though is that if you did catch the virus, the vaccine will reduce the chance of you becoming seriously unwell.

Where can I find out more about the COVID-19 vaccine?

We're working really hard to ensure a safe roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination so we can't answer individual questions about the vaccine. If you'd like more information, please visit www.nhs.uk.

