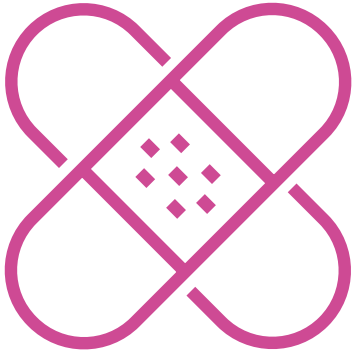


**EVERYTHING  
YOU SHOULD  
KNOW ABOUT  
VACCINES**

**A BOLDER HEALTHIER BIRMINGHAM**





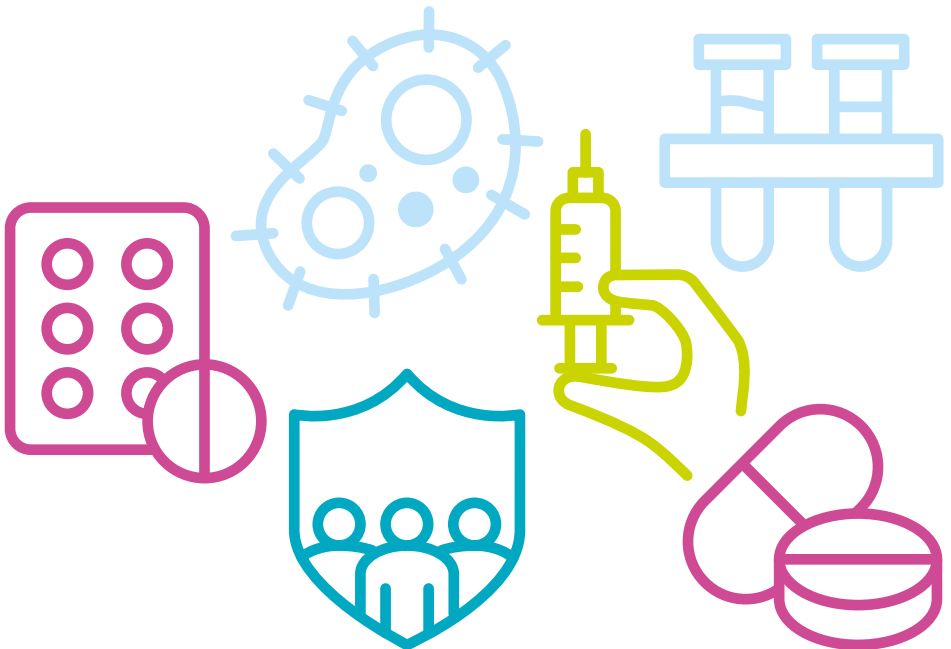
# EVERYTHING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT VACCINES

## **What are vaccines and why are they safe?**

When a person is exposed to an infection for the very first time, the immune system gets activated to produce antibodies to fight the infection. The immune system is

the body's natural defence which sends special cells to destroy an infection.

However, the natural immunity may not be strong enough to prevent a disease from seriously harming someone or killing them.



Vaccines continue to be a safe, simple, and an effective way of protecting against severe diseases. Vaccines train the immune system to create antibodies, just as it does when it's exposed to an infection. However, because vaccines contain only killed or weakened forms of germs like viruses or bacteria, they do not cause the disease or put you at risk of its complications.

All vaccines used in the UK have been approved by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products

Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

The MHRA makes sure the vaccines meet strict international standards for safety, quality and effectiveness.

Once a vaccine is approved, it is closely monitored to make sure it is safe and effective.

Visit **<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/>** for more information about the vaccines and what happens when you are vaccinated.



## Types of vaccines/vaccine schedule

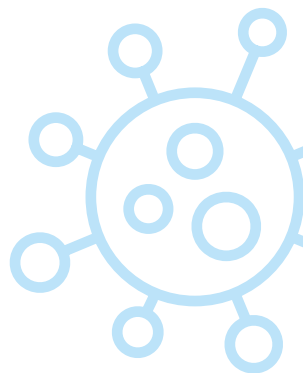
**Table 1: Routine immunisation schedule**

Age due	Vaccine given
8 weeks old first dose	6-in-1 vaccine (Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), Polio, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (pertussis); Rotavirus; Meningococcal B (MenB) 1st dose
12 weeks old	6-in-1 vaccine 2nd dose (Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), Polio, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (pertussis); Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine; Rotavirus (2nd dose)
16 weeks old	6-in-1 vaccine 3rd dose (Diphtheria, Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib), Polio, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (pertussis); Meningococcal B (MenB) 2nd dose
1 year old	Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)/Meningococcal C (MenC); Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) 1st dose; Pneumococcal (PCV) vaccine 2nd dose; Meningococcal B (MenB) 3rd dose
Children from reception to Year 9	Children's flu vaccine (nasal spray or injection)
3 years and 4 months	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) 2nd dose; 4-in-1 pre-school booster (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Polio)
12 to 13 years	Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) (two doses 6 to 24 months apart)
14 years old	3-in-1 teenage booster (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio); Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)
50 years and over	Flu vaccine
65 years old	Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV)
70 to 79 years old	Shingles vaccine
All priority age groups	COVID-19: Age 5 and over eligible for 1st and 2nd dose; Age 12 and over eligible for 1st, 2nd and booster dose; Age 75 and over eligible for 4th dose

**Visit: [birmingham.gov.uk/vaccinations](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/vaccinations)**

## COVID-19 vaccines

All vaccines used in the UK have been approved by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). The MHRA makes sure the vaccines meet strict international standards for safety, quality and effectiveness. Once a vaccine is approved, it is closely monitored to ensure it is safe and effective.



**Table 2: COVID-19 vaccines authorised for children aged 5 to 11 years old**

Commonly known names	Type of vaccine	Who is authorised to have this vaccine?	Doses
Cominarty (Pfizer BioNTech)	mRNA vaccine	5 to 11 year olds	2 doses: 0.2mL injections

**Table 3: COVID-19 vaccines authorised for individuals aged 12 and over**

Commonly known names	Type of vaccine	Who is authorised to have this vaccine?	Doses
Cominarty (Pfizer BioNTech)	mRNA vaccine	Adults and adolescents over the age of 12	2 doses: 0.3mL injections
Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca)	Viral vector	Adults aged 18 upwards	2 doses: 0.5mL injections
Spikevax (Moderna)	mRNA vaccine	Age 12 upwards	2 doses: 0.5ml injections

**Visit: [nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/)**



For more information visit:  
[birmingham.gov.uk/vaccinations](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/vaccinations)

