

Covid Vaccination Leaflet

1 What situations would you go for testing after you have been vaccinated?

After having both doses of the vaccine most people will be protected against coronavirus. There is a small chance you might still get or spread coronavirus even if you have the vaccine. This means it is important to:

- continue to follow social distancing guidance
- if you can, wear something that covers your nose and mouth in places where it's hard to stay away from other people.

If you do experience symptoms of coronavirus more than 4 days following your vaccination such as a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste you may have coronavirus. Stay at home and get a test. [Symptoms of coronavirus \(COVID-19\) – NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)

2 Is it safe for people with HIV to have the vaccine?

Yes, the department of health recommends Covid-19 vaccination for all people with HIV. The British HIV Association and Terrence Higgins Trust have produced guidance about COVID-19 vaccines for people living with HIV.

3 If someone's viral load was high, with low white cell count. What would likely happen if they did receive a jab?

The COVID-19 vaccines currently in use are all non-live vaccines so there are no restrictions in using the vaccine in people with immune deficiency related to HIV infection or any other form of immune deficiency. We routinely advise



photo credit: The Gender Spectrum Collection

people with HIV to have annual flu vaccination; the same advice applies to COVID-19 vaccination. Adverse reactions can of course occur but there is no evidence that these are more common / more severe in patients with immune deficiency. The response to vaccination may possibly be lower in patients with untreated HIV infection if they have a low CD4 count, but we don't have substantial evidence that this is the case and the risk-benefit assessment is clearly in favour of having the vaccination, especially in those with other recognised risks factors for COVID-19.

4 Are there any negative interactions between medications trans people might be taking and the vaccine? Does the vaccine have any impact on hormone replacement therapy?

There are no known interactions with COVID-19 vaccinations and antiretroviral treatments or hormonal treatments.

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5 What are the implications if someone is taking hormone replacement therapy and the risk of blood clots?

There is no evidence to suggest that people taking hormone replacement therapy would have added risks of blood clots by taking the COVID-19 vaccination.

6 Is personal ID required – is the NHS number enough? If someone is transitioning they may have different details on their ID

Requirement is name, date of birth and address. It helps if you have your NHS numbers as this should speed up the administrative side of the appointment, but this is optional.

7 I'm worried that the COVID-19 vaccine will affect my fertility?

There have been a lot of rumours that the vaccines could affect fertility but these are not true. Here's why:

- There is no scientific process by which the vaccines could affect fertility.
- Like all vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccines teach your body to fight the disease and to develop antibodies to do this. They do not have any ingredients that would affect fertility and the components leave the body within a few days.
- Claims of any effect of Covid-19 vaccination

on fertility are speculative and not supported by any data, for example, there is no evidence to support the theory that immunity to the spike protein could lead to fertility problems.

- Most people who contract COVID-19 will develop the same antibodies that you get from the vaccine and there is no evidence of fertility problems after having had COVID-19.
- Many people who have had the COVID-19 vaccine have gone on to become pregnant.
- It is standard practice for new medicines not to be recommended for those who are pregnant or those planning a pregnancy when they are first issued. Now that more data is available, the independent body responsible for assessing the safety of vaccines (the Joint Committee for Vaccinations & Immunisations) has updated its advice and says there is no need for anyone to delay pregnancy after having the vaccine.

Further answers to frequently asked questions about Covid-19 vaccinations and information regarding how to access can be found at [COVID-19 - Healthier Together \(bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk\)](https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk)

<https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/our-latest-covid-19-vaccination-walk-in-clinics/>

This information has been put together by the South Gloucestershire LGBTQ Equality Network and partners.