



South West London  
Clinical Commissioning Group

# Let's talk about Covid-19 vaccinations

2021



# Croydon

# Croydon and the Covid vaccine



The NHS in Croydon has been vaccinating people over the age of 16 or those at high risk from Covid; we will be starting to vaccinate 12 – 15 year olds soon.

We've vaccinated people in surgeries, pharmacies, churches and mosques. We've vaccinated people at Fairfield Hall, Selhurst Park and Centrale Shopping centre.

But we have also reached out to some soup kitchens, provided an outreach vaccination team for people who are homeless and run pop-up vaccination clinics for homeless people, asylum seekers and sex workers.



We think there is still more we can do to reach some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

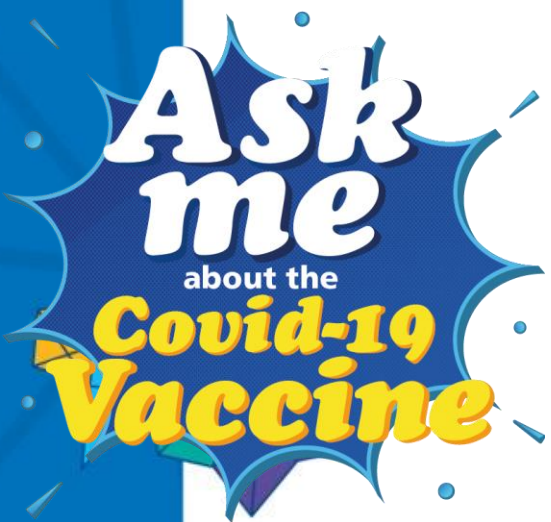


# Key messages

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- Vaccines are safe and effective and offer the best chance of ending the pandemic
- Getting vaccinated significantly reduces the chance of getting sick or hospitalised if you get infected, and helps to prevent you passing on infection
- The vaccines work against the new variants of coronavirus
- Getting both doses of the vaccine are really important, this gives maximum protection against the variant. If you had the first dose 8 weeks ago, you can book your second dose now
- Due to the new variant - infections are rising in this area
- We are running pop ups and walk in clinics, including weekends and evenings to make it easier for people to get their vaccine

**You do not need to be registered with a GP or have proof of address to get the vaccine. If you have ID, that makes it quicker, but all you need is a name and an arm!**



# Why vaccinate?

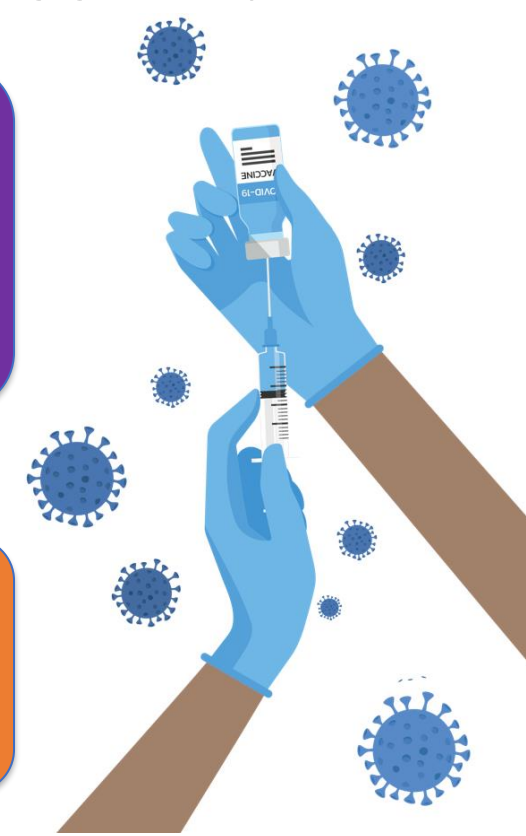
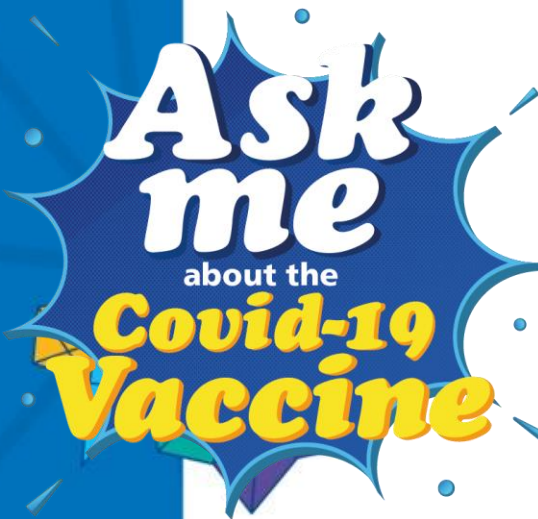
**An effective vaccine is the way out of the pandemic.** It is the best way to protect people from coronavirus and has already saved thousands of lives. As more people are vaccinated, more people will be protected from the harmful effects of COVID-19.

Viruses cannot be cured – they can be treated or prevented – but not cured.

If a lot of people do not get vaccinated, the virus will continue to circulate and mutate.

There is clear evidence that these vaccines can keep people from getting really sick and/or dying from COVID-19.

So, the vaccines are the best answer we have to the COVID-19 pandemic.



# Consenting to the vaccine

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Like any medical treatment, the decision to have the vaccine is up to the individual as vaccines are not mandatory.

We know this is a personal decision and a complex process with many factors.

People's decision not to take the vaccine may be influenced by:

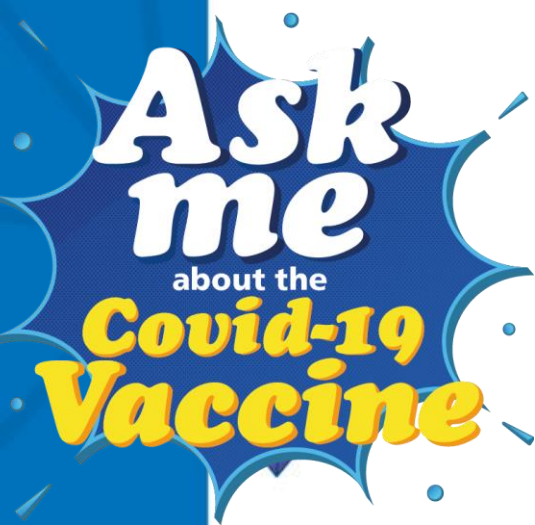
- Confidence (they do not trust the vaccine or the provide)

- Complacency (they do not think they need the vaccine, do not value the vaccine)

- Convenience (they find it difficult to access the vaccine)

We want to ensure everyone has access to reliable information so that they can make an informed decision.

For many people, this information would be more accessible or trusted if it came from one of their peers.



# What we have heard in Croydon

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Croydon is a large borough with a diverse population. Uptake of the vaccine has varied across the borough, with the north of the borough and areas of higher deprivation tending to have lower levels of uptake.

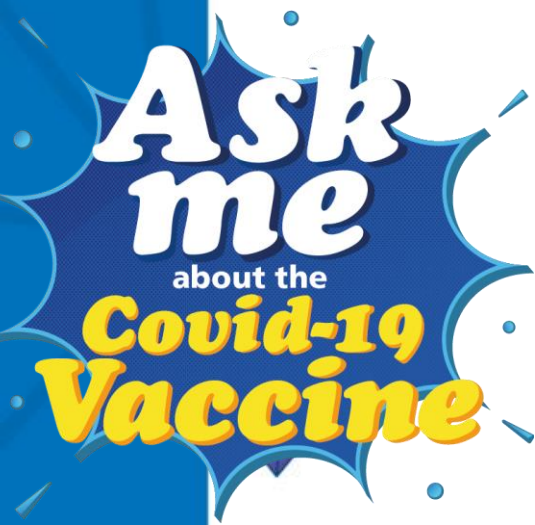
We have been engaging with residents from a range of communities to understand any questions or concerns they have about being vaccinated; we also conducted a survey with people under 50 to listen to why they would or would not be vaccinated.

The main issues we are hearing from our residents are:

- The speed of development of the vaccine
- Concerns about side effects, particularly any unforeseen long-term health impacts
- Questions about fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Effectiveness of the vaccines

We know that some people in Croydon have less confidence in the vaccine and low levels of trust in the NHS.

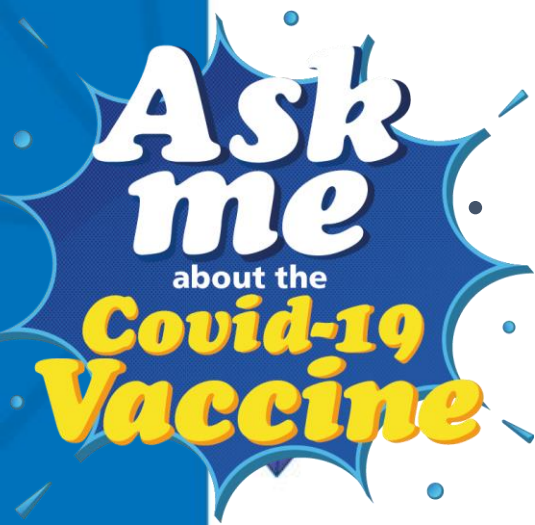
Younger people feel less at risk from Covid.



# Why are we asking you to have conversations?

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- This is a health equality issue
- We want everyone to have equal access to the vaccine and trustworthy information about the vaccine
- We have tried to reach as many people as possible through:
  - Letters, phone calls and social media;
  - Q&As with clinicians organised by the community and voluntary sector;
  - Pop up vaccination clinics at places of worship and for homeless people/asylum seekers/sex workers;
  - Information stalls and door to door information teams.
- We all know it is easy to be open and discuss your views and feelings with people you already know and trust.



# The vaccines

There are 3 main vaccines now in use in the UK

Pfizer/  
BioNTech

Moderna

AstraZeneca  
Oxford

All three vaccines are safe and effective in preventing hospitalisations and deaths from covid 19.

People aged under 40 are offered either Moderna or Pfizer/BioNTech

None of these vaccines contain live Covid-19, animal products or foetal products. They are halal.

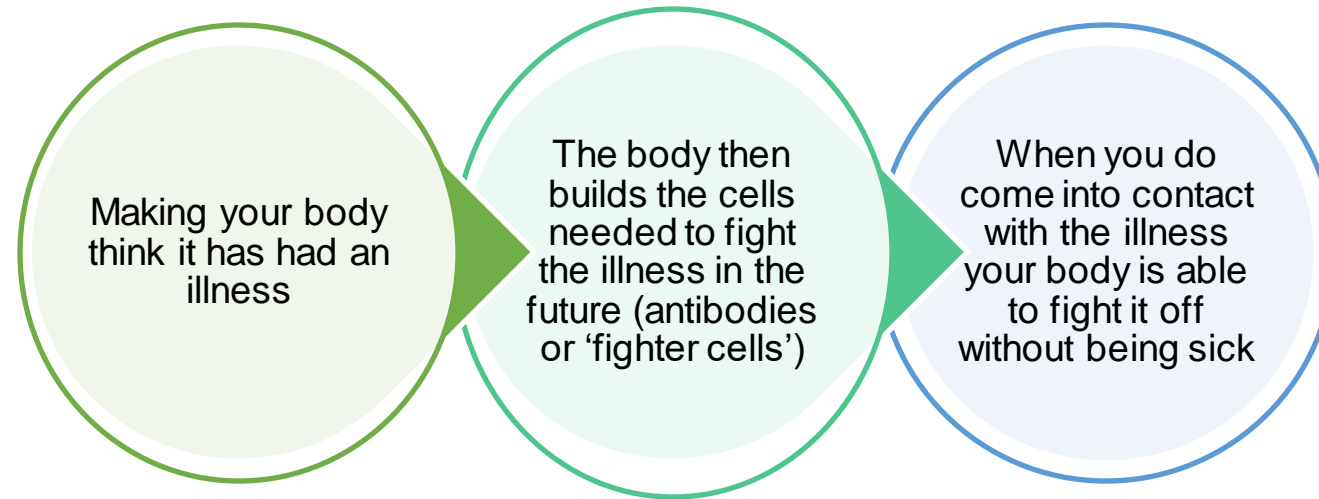
**Ask  
me**  
about the  
**Covid-19  
Vaccine**



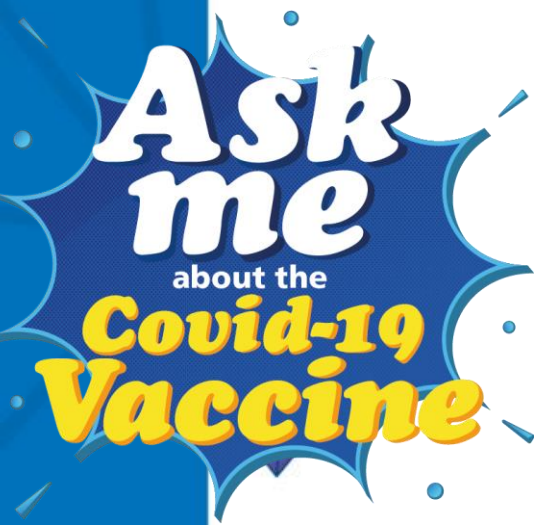
# How do the vaccines work?

Vaccines train the immune system to activate the immune response.

All vaccines work by:



**Many people have had one or more vaccinations in their lifetime**, often when they were babies. Things you might have been vaccinated against: Diphtheria, whooping cough, polio, mumps, measles, rubella and tetanus.



# How safe are the vaccines?

The vaccines approved for use in the UK have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness

Millions of people have been given a COVID-19 vaccine and reports of serious side effects, such as allergic reactions or clotting problems, have been very rare.

There is no evidence that the vaccines cause fertility issues

You can't get Covid from the vaccines

To find out more about the vaccines approved in the UK, see:  
[GOV.UK: Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 approved by MHRA](#)  
[GOV.UK: Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine for COVID-19 approved by MHRA](#)  
[GOV.UK: Moderna vaccine for COVID-19 approved by MHRA](#)

**Ask  
me**  
about the  
**Covid-19  
Vaccine**

# How have vaccines for COVID-19 been developed so fast?



# Frequently asked questions

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## **Do I need to be registered with a GP have the vaccines?**

- No. You can attend a walk-in centre or pop up clinic without having to show proof of residency or having a GP. You may need to show proof of age though.

## **Will the vaccines affect my fertility?**

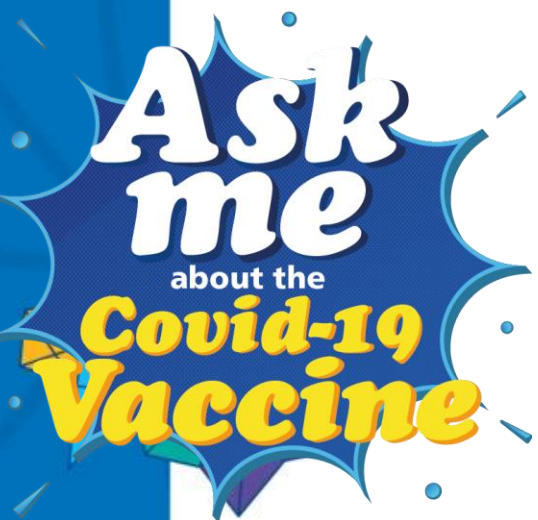
- There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility in either men or women and there is no need to avoid getting pregnant after vaccination.

## **I'm pregnant and worried about getting the vaccine – is the risk of getting COVID-19 during pregnancy higher than the risk of having a serious side effect from the vaccine?**

- If you're pregnant, or think you might be, you can have the Covid-19 vaccine
- There is no reason to think that the vaccine will have worse side-effects if you are pregnant. More than half of women who test positive for COVID-19 in pregnancy have no symptoms at all, but some pregnant women can get life-threatening complications from COVID-19, particularly if you have underlying health conditions.

## **Should I have the vaccine when breastfeeding?**

- You can have the Covid-19 vaccines if you're breastfeeding – you cannot catch Covid-19 from the vaccine and cannot pass it to your baby through your breast milk



# Source of information

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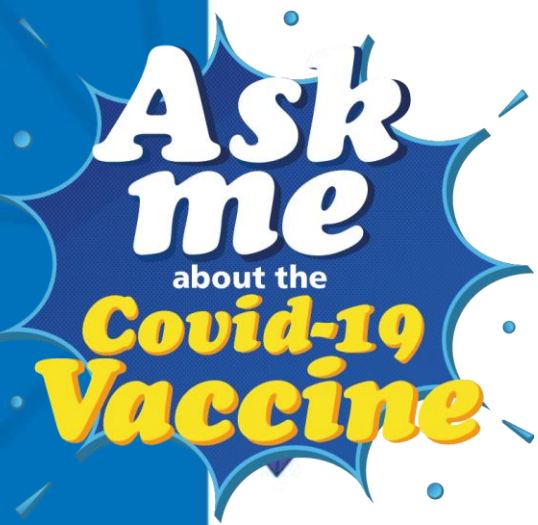
National government: [www.gov.uk/](http://www.gov.uk/)

NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

Local: [www.swlondonccg.nhs.uk](http://www.swlondonccg.nhs.uk)

To learn more about the differences between the vaccines visit:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/health-55625276>



# Next steps

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We will circulate these slides.

Is there anything else we could do that would be useful for you and the people you support?

- Return to this forum for a longer Q&A
- Longer training to become a community champion

Would you like to receive stakeholder updates?

