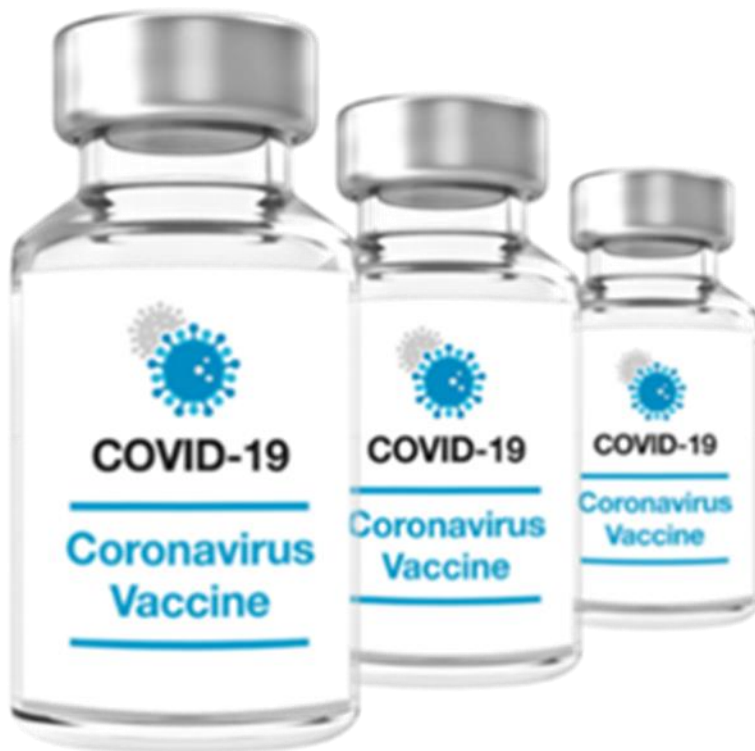


Speaking to your GP about the coronavirus vaccine





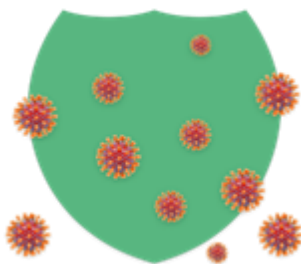
Coronavirus is a virus that can make you very unwell.



The coronavirus vaccine can help stop you getting very unwell from coronavirus.



The coronavirus vaccine is a small injection of medicine into the arm that helps our bodies learn how to fight coronavirus



The vaccine teaches your body how to fight coronavirus if you get it.

You can [find out more about the vaccine here.](#)



The Government has put people most at risk from coronavirus into different priority groups.



Priority means people who can get the vaccine first.



Each group has a number, and the NHS started with Group 1.



The first priority groups to get the vaccine were older people and people who are at most at risk of becoming very ill if they get coronavirus (Groups 1, 2, 3 and 4).



People with Down's syndrome should have been invited for vaccination by now, as they are in Group 4.



If you have Down's syndrome, and you have not been offered the vaccine yet, **contact your GP** to let them know.



The priority groups get the vaccine first, but everyone who wants the vaccine should get it in the end.



GPs in England have been asked to start vaccinating people in the next priority groups (Groups 5 and 6).



Group 6 now includes all people with a learning disability who are on their GP's learning disability register.



The learning disability register is a list of all the people with a learning disability that your GP looks after.



The learning disability register helps GPs know what support people need.



If you are worried you may not be on the learning disability register, contact your GP surgery to check.



If you a person with a learning disability **talk to your GP surgery** to add you, so you will be invited to have your vaccine in Group 6.



Tell the receptionist that you have a learning disability and that you want to make sure you are on the GP learning disability register.



A doctor may ask you some questions.

They may ask you to explain your learning disability. Tell them about what kind of support you need.



You can also tell them about any disability benefits you get.



You can also tell them if you have a social worker.



You can also tell them if you had any support at school.



After you have registered, the receptionist might not be able to book your vaccine appointment straight away.



This is the NHS calling to make a Covid-19 vaccine appointment

They might say you need to wait until they send you an invitation to an appointment.



You can ask when they will be sending out the invitations for appointments.



Then you know when to call them back if you do not get your invitation to appointment.



GPs are inviting people in Group 6 to come for their vaccines in the next few weeks.



NHS: Please call us to book a Covid-19 vaccine appointment

If you are on the GP learning disability register, you should hear from your GP soon.



Contact your GP surgery if you do not hear from them in the next few weeks.



You may also want to contact your GP surgery if:



You want to let them know that you will need accessible information about the vaccine.



You want to let your GP surgery know about any reasonable adjustments you may need to have the vaccine.



You want to speak to your GP or nurse to help you make a decision about whether to have the vaccine.



It is a good idea to understand as much as you can about the vaccine.



It will help you make choices about whether you want to have the vaccine.



Why is the vaccine important for people with a learning disability?



We know that people with a learning disability are more at risk from coronavirus.



Sadly, many people with a learning disability have died from coronavirus.



We also know that some people with a learning disability will find it harder to get the healthcare they need if they do become very unwell.



Because of this, Mencap think it is important that all people with a learning disability should be offered the vaccine as soon as possible.

| March | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

GP surgeries will be inviting people with a learning disability for the vaccine in early March



If you have a learning disability and you do not hear from your GP soon, contact your GP surgery to check if you are on the learning disability register.



You could use this document to help you explain why you think it is important for you to have the vaccine.



If you need advice or support, you can contact the Learning Disability Helpline on 0808 808 1111 or [click here to send us an email](#).



You may also want to speak to the nurses in your local community learning disability team if you have any problems.