

COVID-19 vaccination information for cancer patients

All information refers to the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccinations for Covid-19

Can I have the vaccination?

YES. The vast majority of people on cancer treatment are fine to be vaccinated, even if you are on chemotherapy, targeted anti-cancer drugs, immunotherapy or radiotherapy.

Are there any extra risks to cancer patients?

NO. The vaccine is not a live virus and so cannot make you ill, even if your immune system is affected by chemotherapy. There is no evidence that the vaccine is unsafe with anti-cancer therapies.

When should I have the vaccine?

For patients undergoing chemotherapy: We recommend you have the vaccine just prior to starting your next cycle of chemotherapy when your blood counts are likely to have recovered. This is to maximise the chance your body will produce immunity as a result of the vaccine. However, if you do not have a choice in dates, or are on continuous chemotherapy, it is safe to have your vaccination at any point as you will still be offered protection from becoming seriously ill with Covid-19.

For other treatments: (Targeted therapies, monoclonal antibodies without chemotherapy, immunotherapy and radiotherapy) - it is safe to have your vaccination at any point during or after your treatment.

Is there anyone who shouldn't be vaccinated?

According to the national guidance:

- Anyone who has had a previous severe allergic reaction to any components of the vaccine.
- Anyone with very low platelet levels.
- If you are pregnant you should discuss vaccination with your Obstetrician / GP.

For further advice, please speak to your consultant or your GP. The vaccination programme is being co-ordinated by GP surgeries and you will be contacted when appointments are available.

How do I get a vaccination?

The NHS vaccination programme is being delivered by GPs and larger vaccination sites such as the Sheffield Arena for South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw. When people get their vaccination depends on the priority group they fall into. The priority groups are set by The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and are shown overleaf. You do not need to do anything, you will be contacted by the NHS when it is your turn to book an appointment. Please do not contact your GP or hospital, you will be contacted direct.

Where can I find more information about the vaccines?

If you need more information on the COVID-19 vaccination please visit: www.nhs.uk/covidvaccination

