Covid-19 vaccine fact sheet for Glass Door front-line staff

Updated 12 February 2021

Research from various places, including from Oxford (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/science-blog/covid-19-vaccine-hesitancy-uk>) suggests willingness to take a vaccine is closely bound to recognition of the collective importance. Vaccine public information that highlights prosocial benefits may be especially effective. Factors such as conspiracy beliefs that foster mistrust and erode social cohesion will lower vaccine up-take. Below are some insights that may help counter myths and promote arguments of social responsibility. But try not to repeat myths (which tends to just reinforce them). Instead, focus on facts.

Is it safe?

Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe. Two types of vaccine are available in the UK. More are being developed. Both have been approved for use in the UK, which means they have met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness like all other vaccines.

In the hostels, guests are being offered the Oxford Vaccine.

The vaccine does not contain the live virus itself, only harmless elements from it. Taking the vaccine will boost your immunity against Covid for you and reduce your ability to spread the disease to others.

Thanks to massive international testing efforts, the vaccines were developed at record speed, but they all have to meet rigorous standards before becoming available to the public. No steps were missed, and the UK’s drug regulator has certified that the vaccines available are extremely safe.

Are there side effects?

Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and short-term, and not everyone gets them. Common reactions that may affect up to one in 10 people and typically get better within days include:

* sore arm
* headache
* chills
* tiredness
* feeling sick
* fever
* dizziness
* weakness
* aching muscles

There are no cases of significant long-term side effects in the millions of people who have taken it. (As of 7 February, 2.9 million adults in the UK have taken the vaccine). You may be tired or sore afterwards. However, it is extremely rare for a vaccine to have long-term side effects. What we do know is that Covid-19s long-term implications can be deadly.

Who has the right to vaccines?

Vaccines for coronavirus are being offered to every adult living in the UK free of charge, regardless of immigration status. While NHS numbers form an important part of the administrative process, they are not a precondition for being offered a vaccine.

Can I have it if I am a Vegan, Vegetarian, or Muslim?

The vaccine does NOT include pork or any material of foetal or animal origin.

(also see video aimed at South East Asian community addressing variety of concerns at https://twitter.com/adilray/status/1353677950550495243?s=20)

Is the coronavirus pandemic a cover for implanting trackable microchips?

All those involved in the making of the vaccine say there is no chip to keep track of where you go or whether you’ve had the vaccine. Your mobile phone already does a better job of tracking your movement. Regarding the origin of the conspiracy theory and facts to counter the claim, see: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/52847648>

I can’t be bothered. I am not worried about getting COVID.

Taking the vaccine means you are protecting others too. By taking the vaccine, we can more safely reopen libraries, day centres, restaurants and other places that offer showers, laundry and support services.

Having the vaccine is not just about protecting yourself. You’ll also be helping save others.