

Key messages

- It's time for some of us to roll up our sleeves again.
- Those most at risk from coronavirus will now be offered a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster if it has been at least 24 weeks since their second dose to provide longer-lasting protection against the virus.
- All adults aged 50 or over, those aged 16 to 49 with underlying health conditions at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult households contacts of immunosuppressed individuals, unpaid carers, those living in residential care homes for older adults and frontline health and social care workers will be invited for the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster and are also eligible for the free flu vaccine.
- Flu vaccine and COVID-19 Vaccine Booster appointments are being scheduled based on clinical need and age.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine booster aims to maintain protection from the vaccine for those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19. As not enough time has passed to enable a clear understanding of the level of protection after six months, the JCVI has taken a precautionary approach. [JCVI statement regarding a COVID-19 booster vaccine programme for winter 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



Key messages (continued)

- The aim of the booster, as with the vaccine, is to prevent hospitalisations and to prevent people dying from coronavirus.
- While all COVID-19 vaccines can be used safely as booster vaccines, the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines will be given as a booster in Scotland as they show a good immune response. AstraZeneca may be given as a booster dose to those who cannot have Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna for medical reasons.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine Booster will be given alongside the flu vaccine where feasible and if six months (24 weeks) have passed since a second COVID-19 vaccine dose. Having both the flu vaccine and the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster together is safe and effective.
- Together with the flu vaccine, the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster will boost the immunity of a large number of people in Scotland that will be offered both vaccines.
- With increasing levels of social mixing and close social contact, this winter it is expected that COVID-19 will circulate alongside other respiratory viruses, such as flu, adding to the winter pressures usually faced by the NHS.
- Find out more at nhsinform.scot/rollupyoursleeves or call 0800 030 8013.



Eligibility

You are eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine Booster and the free flu vaccine if you are:

- An adult in a care home for older adults
- Someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable
- A frontline health or social care worker
- Aged 50 or over
- Aged 16 or over with an underlying health condition
- Aged 16 or over and a household contact of an immunosuppressed person
- Aged 16 or over and an unpaid carer



How you will be invited

Residents of care homes for older residents will receive information about getting vaccinated through their care home. Those aged 60 and over and those aged 16 and over with an underlying health condition will receive a letter about their appointment.

Those aged 50 to 59 and those aged 16 or over who are unpaid carers or household contacts of an immunosuppressed person will be able to book online from mid November.

Health and social care workers can register and book their vaccine appointment at www.nhsinform.scot/hscwvaccination.

