

## FAQ's: Covid Booster vaccs – a few questions answered.



### 1) When can I have my booster?

The gaps between booster vaccinations changed in December 2021. Since then for those aged 16 and above the gap between 2<sup>nd</sup> dose and booster vaccinations needs to be 91 days (3 months). The gap between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose is 8 weeks.

For those aged 12-15, they must have been free of Covid for 84 days and 91 days (3 months) between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, and 2<sup>nd</sup> jab and booster. 12-15s need to have a parent or guardian with them for consent when attending at a clinic.

For those aged 12-15 with a serious condition, the gap between each dose of the vaccine is 8 weeks. For a link to which conditions are included in this go to:  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine-people-with-severely-weakened-immune-system/>



### 2) Will I need to be contacted before I can have my booster? Or can I just ask for one?

You will usually be contacted by the national booking service when your vaccine is due, but you can attend walk-in clinics without a notification, as long as the gaps between vaccines are as in Q1. The walk-in clinics now operate the same rules as the National Booking Service (NBS), in terms of gaps between vaccinations.

### 3) What has happened to the Covid Booking Line at Holsworthy?

The Covid Booking Line closed at the end of November 2021, once the large vaccination clinics ended and other providers took over. A new vaccination line will be opening in mid-February, so patients can speak to our Vaccination Care Co-ordinator with general vaccination enquiries. This will not be a booking line. Please continue to use 119 or NBS online

### 4) What is happening about vaccinations for 5-11 year olds now?

Vaccinations for 5-11 year-olds in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) group are being provided by a specialist nursing team based at North Devon Healthcare Trust. They will be contacting parents/guardians of children in this age group, who are CEV, in February. Vaccinations will be done in bookable clinics offered by the team. They will not be being done at Holsworthy Medical Centre. For 5-11s NOT in the CEV group, vaccinations are expected to become available in late spring. No details about how & where this is going to be given have been released yet.

### 5) I have received a letter from you to book my booster vaccine. Is it from you?

We do not send letters. We only text message patients. If you receive a letter this will be from the national booking team. Texts from us will state the practice you are registered at - from Holsworthy Medical Centre, for example. If there is any request for payment, or for you to disclose personal banking details. This is a scam.

### 6) How long do I have to wait after a positive PCR before receiving the vaccine?

28 days

**7) I have been invited for a third dose not a booster. What is this and why?**

Third doses are being advised for those who are immunosuppressed. It is being advised that this should be completed 8 weeks or more after your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose, which means you may be called to have a third dose earlier than the six months. Please see link below [JCVI issues advice on third dose vaccination for severely immunosuppressed - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-issues-advice-on-third-dose-vaccination-for-severely-immunosuppressed)



**8) If I am having a third dose, will I have another vaccine?**

Patients in the immunocompromised group are also being offered a 4<sup>th</sup> vaccine, which can now be booked on-line. You will need a verification letter from your consultant, saying this is recommended for you, before you request a 4<sup>th</sup> vaccination. Appointments can be booked (by calling 119 or using the National Booking Service on-line) or by attending at a walk-in, but you MUST take your consultant letter in with you when attending.

**9) Is the third dose vaccination the same vaccination as the booster?**

Yes, they are all the Pfizer vaccine for people in the immunocompromised group. You will have it recorded on your medical records that you have had a third dose and not a booster.

**10) What type of vaccine will I have?**

In Devon and Cornwall you will have either a Pfizer or a Moderna vaccine.

**11) If it's not the same as I had before, will it still be OK?**

Medical evidence has shown that there are as many benefits of combining vaccines for booster as remaining the same. For a link please read the government statement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-statement-on-booster-doses-of-pfizer-and-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccines>

**12) How can I find out where to get a vaccine?**

You can book at local venues by phoning 119 or booking on-line at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/>



Some are drop-in options, so no booking is necessary. There may, however, be limited supplies of vaccine at the drop-in centres. Please also check our website and Facebook and Twitter posts for the most up-to-date information.

**13) If I miss my booster, what happens next?**

Please book in by using the National Covid Vaccination Booking site or calling 119.

**14) What do I need at my booster vaccination?**

Try to wear loose-fitting clothes, short-sleeved is easier. If you have your card with your first 2 vaccinations on them, or your NHSApp with vaccination details, please bring it with you. If you are having a 3<sup>rd</sup> full dose (not booster) or 4<sup>th</sup> dose, please always bring your consultant's letter authorising you to have it. It cannot be given without this letter.

### **15) Will I experience side-effects?**

You will be given lots of information about this when you attend, and your vaccinator will advise if you have specific medical queries. Some people like to have Paracetamol ready, just-in-case.

### **16) Can I opt out of having the vaccine?**

If you do not wish to be called or contacted by the National Booking Service you can choose to opt out by visiting this site: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/choose-your-covid-19-vaccination-invitation-preference/>



This preference can be changed at any time. If individuals wish to opt out of receiving similar communications from their GP, they need to contact their practice directly.

### **17) Are you going to be holding any more Covid vaccination clinics at Holsworthy Medical Centre?**

We will be holding a very limited number of Covid vaccination clinics at Holsworthy towards the end of February. These will be held on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, as part of our Extended Hours and Improved Access service. Once the vaccine supply has been guaranteed we will publicise the dates. Please check your surgery website and social media posts for details.

db/VP February 2022