

The coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccine



Some people who have coronavirus do not know they have coronavirus. They feel well, or feel as if they have a cold.



Some people who have coronavirus feel poorly.



People who have coronavirus may:

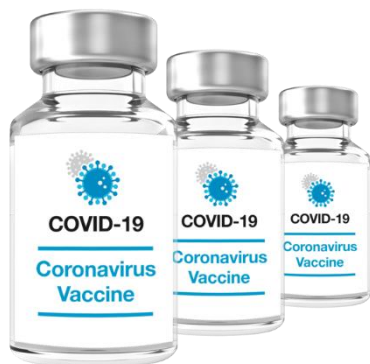
- have a high temperature
- have a cough
- lose or have a change in their sense of taste or smell



To stop people getting as poorly from coronavirus, scientists have made a **vaccine**.



A scientist is a person who tries to understand how our world and other things work.



What is a vaccine?

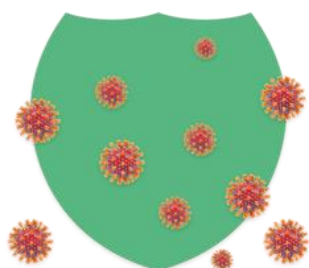
A vaccine is medicine that helps your body to fight an infection in the future.



A vaccine works by teaching your body's **immune system** how to fight the infection.



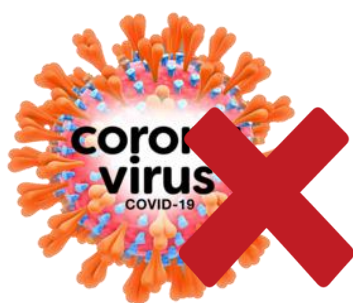
Your **immune system** is how your body fights off infections, like a cold or the flu.



Your immune system learns how to fight the coronavirus infection without you getting poorly.



If you catch coronavirus in the future, the vaccine should stop you from becoming very unwell.



The vaccine does not give you coronavirus.



Doctors and scientists say that the vaccines are safe to use.



If people have the vaccine, less people will get seriously ill from coronavirus.

Who can have the vaccine?



In England, anyone aged 12 and over can have the coronavirus vaccine.



Some children aged 5 – 11 can also have the coronavirus vaccine.



This includes children:

- whose **immune systems** do not work very well
- who have Down's syndrome
- who are on the GP learning disability register



The government have said that all children aged 5 – 11 will be able to have the coronavirus vaccine in Spring 2022.



You do not have to pay to have the vaccine. It is free.



You can choose if you want to have the vaccine or not.



If you are not sure about having the vaccine, people can support you to get more information.



This could be people you trust, family, friends or staff that support you.



They can help you to understand how the vaccine works and listen to any worries you might have.



You can say “**No**” if you do not want the vaccine.



It is your choice.

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