

COVID-19 vaccination

YOUNG PEOPLE (16-18 YEAR OLDS)



This leaflet has been produced by the Gibraltar Health Authority to help explain the Covid 19 vaccination programme to young people (16-18 year old), and their parents/guardians

About the Covid-19 vaccine

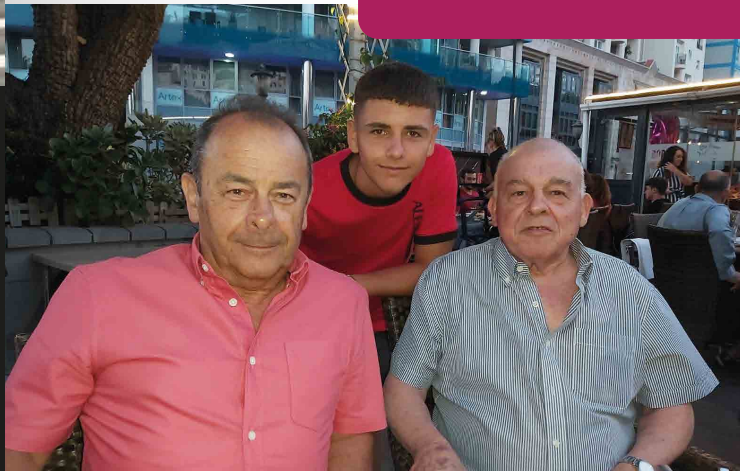
We are using the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine in Gibraltar. Two doses of the vaccine are given a few weeks apart to provide the best protection.

Why should I have the vaccine?

The vaccination programme in Gibraltar has already vaccinated many of the oldest people and those who are clinically at risk. As a young person, you are at low risk from the virus yourself, but you can pass it on to other people without knowing, especially your grandparents and other older relatives.

We would therefore like you to have the vaccine to keep your family safe as well as protect yourself and your friends and others you come into contact with such as your teachers.

We are targeting your age group as you will be coming into contact with many other young people at school and may catch the virus and then unknowingly take it into your home.



Who cannot have the vaccine?

The vaccines do not contain any living organism and are safe for the vast majority of people. A small number of people may be ineligible for vaccination including people who have severe allergic reactions to medicines or vaccines.

Will the vaccine protect me?

The vaccine will reduce the chances of you suffering from Covid-19. It may take a few weeks for your body to build up protection though.

The vaccine has been shown to be effective and no safety concerns were seen in studies of more than 40,000 people. Over 80 million people have now received the vaccine worldwide.

Like all medicines, no vaccine is 100% effective. A small number of people may get Covid-19 despite having the vaccination but this disease should be less severe.

Does the vaccine have side effects?

Like many medicines, vaccines can cause side-effects. Most of these are mild and short-term and not everyone gets them.

Even if you do have symptoms after the first dose you still need the second dose to get the best protection against the virus.

Common side effects include:

- Having a painful, heavy feeling in your arm where you had the injection. This tends to be worst around 12 hours - 2 days after you receive the vaccine. Some people also feel tired, have a headache, or general aches/pains or mild flu like symptoms.
- Although feeling feverish is not uncommon for 2-3 days, a high temperature is unusual and may indicate that you have Covid-19 or a different infection. You should rest and take paracetamol, following guidance on the packaging, to help you feel better.
- Symptoms following vaccination normally last only a couple of days. If your symptoms worsen or you are concerned call 111.

If you seek advice from a doctor or nurse, make sure you tell them about your vaccination.



Can I catch Covid-19 from the vaccine?

No! You cannot catch Covid-19 from the vaccine but it is possible to have caught Covid-19 and not realise until after you have been vaccinated.

The most important symptoms of Covid-19 are a new continuous cough, a high temperature, a loss of or change in your normal sense of taste or smell.

If you have the above symptoms, please stay at home and call 111.

For further information visit www.covid.gi

What do I do next?

We suggest that you discuss vaccination with your parents or guardians. If you want to go ahead, please accept the appointment when we contact you. After you have had your first dose you will be contacted again and given an appointment for your second vaccination. It is really important to have both doses of the vaccine for maximum protection.

You will be given a vaccination card. Please keep this safe. This will also help with travel in the future as proof of vaccination.

Will I be immune after I have had the vaccine?

Two doses of the vaccine will significantly reduce your chances of becoming seriously ill with Covid-19. We cannot yet say for certain how long the vaccine will protect you for and whether it will totally stop you from passing the virus on to others.

To protect yourself and your family you still need to:

Practice physical distancing
Keep your social bubbles small
Wear a face mask when advised
Wash your hands carefully and frequently



Follow the latest GHA and Government guidance

(www.covid.gi)

