

Invitation to book your COVID-19 vaccination

Essential Information – Please read carefully

City and Hackney is working hard to vaccinate all of our local frontline health and social care workers in the coming weeks. You will receive an invitation to book an appointment for your first dose of the vaccine soon. We have highlighted important information below answering questions you may have and explaining the process and the reasons we are urging all staff to accept their invitations to be vaccinated when they receive them.

Why am I being offered the COVID-19 vaccine? Do I have to have it?

As a frontline worker, you are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 at work. Getting your COVID-19 vaccination as soon as you can, should protect you and may help protect your family and those you care for. We are strongly urging all of our frontline staff to take up the offer of vaccination and book appointments when they receive their invitations.

You will need to have two doses of the vaccine. The first vaccine dose gives limited protection in the first 10 days, and increases to a very good protection by day 21. It continues to provide a high level of protection from severe illness and hospitalisation in the short term. However, to achieve maximum protection the second dose remains important and everyone is urged to attend for both appointments to get the maximum level of protection. [Full details on vaccine effectiveness can be found here.](#)

Is the vaccine safe?

Like all other medicines and devices, both of the COVID-19 vaccinations have been granted regulatory MHRA approval to ensure that they are safe and effective. The vaccines cannot give you COVID-19 infection, and while you will be given two doses over the coming weeks, analysis shows that the first dose alone will significantly reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill within two weeks.

Whether you have had the vaccine or not, you will need to continue to follow all of the IPC guidance in your workplace, including wearing the correct personal protection equipment and taking part in any screening programmes. In due course, the vaccine should significantly lower rates of community transmission of the virus. However, everyone who has been vaccinated will still need to observe social distancing where possible, wear a mask, and continue to wash their hands regularly in order to reduce further community transmission.

What is the process in City and Hackney? Where will I receive my vaccine?

You will receive an invitation via email to book your appointment online, and you will receive your vaccine at the Homerton Hospital. You will then be able to book your second appointment when you receive the first dose.

Vaccinations are being coordinated by different groups across the borough – for example, The GP Confederation will be coordinating vaccinations for primary care staff, and mass vaccination sites are in development for patients and residents at Stratford and The Excel Centre. Many patients have already received their vaccinations in GP practices and a purpose built vaccination hub at John Scott Health Centre is also being set up.

When will I be offered the vaccine? Which vaccine will I receive?

Frontline health and social care workers fall under the JCVI priority group 2. However, we can't vaccinate all frontline health and social care workers at once. Therefore we are currently identifying which teams should be vaccinated in City and Hackney first based on clinical risk and exposure, clinical vulnerability, patient interaction, and other criteria. It is currently anticipated that everyone in priority group 2 will have received a vaccination invite by the end of February at the latest, although this could be subject to change. Please do be patient waiting for your invitation, as the numbers of staff we are able to vaccinate at a time is dependent on the supply and resource available.

The type of vaccine you will receive will depend on supply. PHE, the JCVI and the MHRA have all been very clear that in the absence of trial data to show it is safe and effective, doses should not be mixed. If you have a first dose of one vaccine, your second dose will be of that same vaccine too and that is what NHS organisations have been instructed to do.

Who will be contacting me? Do I need to do anything now?

Please wait to receive your invitation via email (from “no-reply@systembookings.com”) and text message (from “**Homerton**”) to book a vaccination appointment online, and be reassured that everyone will receive an invite in due course.

If you receive your invitation while self-isolating or while experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, then you must not attend a vaccination appointment. Please be assured that you will be able to book the appointment online for in ten days' time if necessary, and that you will not miss out on your vaccine.

You will need your NHS number to hand when you book your appointment. You should be able to find it on any letter or document you have received from the NHS, including prescriptions, test results, and hospital referral or appointment letters. If you still cannot find your NHS number, then you will need to contact your GP practice to find out what it is, but please try avoid making any unnecessary calls to practices as they are currently under a lot of pressure.

I still have questions...

Vaccinating our frontline health and social care workers is going to be a complex process and we anticipate that there will be a lot of questions.

A range of information including patient information leaflets, guidance and [frequently asked questions](#) about the vaccine is available on the ELHCP website. This page is updated regularly.