

Autumn COVID-19 vaccinations in Brighton and Hove - Frequently Asked Questions

If you are eligible, get your Autumn COVID-19 vaccine now - either book an appointment today or attend one of the weekly walk-in mobile vaccination sites.

Who can have a COVID-19 vaccination this Autumn?

As the number of COVID-19 infections may increase over the winter, people at greatest risk are being offered a booster vaccine to give them good protection from becoming seriously ill or needing to go to hospital if they catch COVID-19.

The vaccine is being offered to: people aged 65 and over, residents in care homes for older people, anyone aged 6 months and over in a clinical risk group, those who are pregnant, carers, household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, and health and social care staff.

You should have your vaccine at least 3 months after your last COVID-19 vaccine.

If you are unwell, wait until you have recovered to have your vaccine. There is no need to wait four weeks after having had COVID-19.

Where can I get my Autumn COVID-19 vaccination?

If you are eligible, you can book an appointment:

- by calling the local booking hub on 0300 303 8060
- online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination
- through the NHS app <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/>
- by calling 119
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Appointments are available at some pharmacies, as well as Mile Oak Medical Centre, and other sites in the city. The appointment sites are listed here:

<https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/your-care/covid-19-vaccination/locations-of-vaccination-services/>

To book Mile Oak Medical Centre, ring 0300 303 8060.

The pharmacies and other appointment-based COVID-19 vaccination sites may also offer walk-in clinics. This can change daily depending on the number of booked appointments arranged for that day. Check this website to see if a local vaccination site is offering a walk-in clinic today:

<https://www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/your-care/covid-19-vaccination/walk-in-vaccination-services/>

If you can't find a time or location that suits you, keep checking back as more times and locations will be added as soon as they are available.

If you prefer, eligible adults can walk-in, without an appointment, at one of the weekly mobile sessions in October:

- Wednesdays: 10.30am to 2.30pm, Tesco Superstore Hove
- Thursdays: 10.30am to 2.30pm, Outside Hove Polyclinic
- Fridays: 10.30am to 2.30pm, St Peter's Church

Other locations may be available from time to time and will be publicised.

Can someone help me to get my COVID-19 vaccination?

Yes, if you have any concerns or need help to get your COVID-19 vaccination, the local vaccine enquiries team can help you:

- book an appointment.
- find a venue you feel comfortable in.
- arrange free transport to get you there.
- answer any questions or talk through any worries you have, for example, about needles, side effects or leaving the house.
- where appropriate, arrange a home visit.

Call 0300 303 8060 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm)

Sussex Interpreting Services can also help you understand more about getting your vaccine, make your appointment, organise transport or go with you.

If you or someone you know needs support, please leave them a voicemail message in your preferred language on 01273 702005 or complete a form on their website and they will get back to you. Go to: www.sussexinterpreting.org.uk

What is the free transport?

If you need help getting to a vaccination site, the vaccine team may be able to arrange a free taxi for you. This is available for people who are housebound or have other difficulties getting to a vaccination site.

Call 0300 303 8060 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm)

What if I never had a first or second dose?

If you have not been vaccinated before, or if you missed a previous booster, you can still have this Autumn COVID-19 vaccination – you will not need another dose.

How effective is the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine will reduce the chance of you becoming severely unwell from COVID-19 this winter. The vaccine may also provide some protection against mild COVID-19 infection, but such protection does not last for long. It may take a few days for your body to build up some extra protection from the vaccine. Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective – some people may still get COVID-19, but any infection should be less severe.

Are the vaccines safe?

Yes. All the COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK have been tested and met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Will there be any side effects from the vaccine?

Vaccines can cause some side effects, but not everyone gets them. Any side effects are usually mild and should not last longer than a week. More serious side effects are very rare.

What happens at the vaccine appointment?

You'll be asked some questions about your medical history and then be given an injection of the vaccine into your upper arm.

You can't choose which vaccine you have but the vaccinator will make sure it's suitable for you.

You'll have a chance to ask any questions before you are vaccinated, and if you change your mind there is no obligation to get your vaccine.

You can also take someone with you to your appointment if it will make you feel more comfortable.

For more information, scan the QR code or go to www.sussex.ics.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination

If you are eligible, get your Autumn COVID-19 vaccine now - either book an appointment today or attend one of the weekly walk-in mobile vaccination sites.

Visit our webpage for more information <https://www.trustdevcom.org.uk/what-we-do/equalities/health-projects/autumn-covid-19-vaccinations/>

