

## COVID-19 vaccine

### Side effects

#### An easy read guide



All medicines have **side effects**, some people who have the COVID-19 vaccine get some **side effects**.



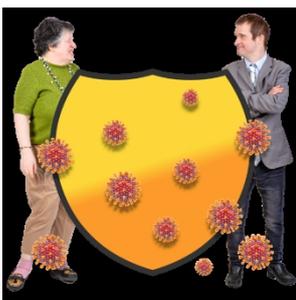
**Side effects** are when you take a medicine or have a **vaccine** and it makes you **feel ill**.

Side effects do not happen to everyone and usually do not last long.



**X 2**

If you have **side effects** after the **first vaccine**, you still **need** to have the **second vaccine**.



You may get **some protection** from the **first vaccine**.

Having **x 2** vaccines will give you the **best protection** against the virus.

**Very common side effects** in the first day or two include:



- having a **painful**, heavy feeling and tenderness in the **arm** where you had your injection.



- **feeling tired.**



- **headache, aches, and chills.**



**Common** means these **side effects** happen to **lots of people**.



These side effects normally **last less than a week** and **will not do you any harm**.



You may also have flu like symptoms, **feeling hot, shivering, and shaking** for a day or two.

Neck



Arm Pit

### Less common side effects

**Swollen glands** in the **armpit** or **neck** on the same side as the arm where you had the vaccine.



This can **last** for around **10 days**



**If it lasts longer see your doctor**



**If you** are having a **mammogram** a few weeks **after the vaccine**, **tell the nurse** at the Breast Centre.



If you feel **sore** or have a **fever**, you can **rest** and can take **paracetamol**.



If you take **paracetamol**, make sure you follow the instructions on the packet and **take the right amount**.

## What to do if you are worried about your side effects



**Side effects** normally last **less than a week**.



If your **symptoms** get worse or if you are worried, **call NHS 111**.

**Tell them** when you had your **vaccination** and what one you had.

This **information** is on your **vaccination card**.



If you get **advice** from your **doctor** or nurse, **tell them** about your **vaccination**.

**Show them the vaccination card**.

# Urgent help for side effects



After **4 days**

and

Up to **4 weeks** after vaccination.



**Get medical advice urgently.**

**Phone 999**



**If you have any of the things on this list:**

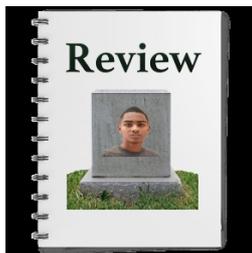
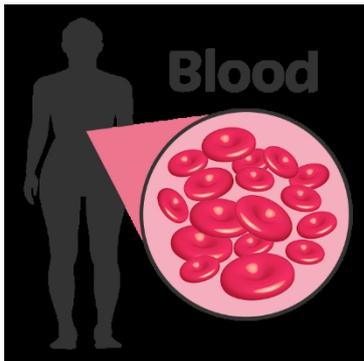


- a new, severe **headache** which is not helped by usual painkillers or is **getting worse**.
- an unusual **headache** which seems **worse** when **lying down** or **bending over**.
- A headache with **blurred vision**, **feeling sick** and **being sick**.



- **Difficulty talking.**
- Feeling **weak** or **tired**.
- **Seizures.**
- New, unexplained pinprick **bruising** or **bleeding**.
- Finding it **hard to breath** or **chest pain**.
- **Pain** in the **tummy** (abdominal pain).
- **Leg swelling.**

## Blood clots and AstraZeneca



There have been reports of a **very rare** condition involving **blood clots** and unusual bleeding after vaccination with **AstraZeneca (AZ)**.

A **blood clot** is a **hard lump** of **blood** that can form **inside your body**.

A **blood clot** normally **happens** in the **legs**. Sometimes they happen in other parts of the body.

**If a blood clot moves** about inside your body, it **can make you very ill**.

**The cause** for the **very rare** cases of people having blood clots are not yet clear. This **is being looked at**.

Because of the **high risk** of health complications and **death from COVID-19**.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the World Health Organization, and the European Medicines Agency. All think it is **better to have the vaccination**.

