



## About the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

### What is Moderna?

Moderna, sold under the brand name Spikevax, is one of the three COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK. Like all the COVID-19 vaccines, it has been extensively tested and has been approved as safe and effective by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). It has also been approved for use in many other countries around the world, including the United States and countries in the European Union.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines used in the UK contain any animal or foetal products.

### How does the vaccine work?

All three COVID-19 vaccines work by teaching the body to produce antibodies to fight the virus. This is done by introducing a fragment of protein from the virus into your body. Both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines use 'messenger ribonucleic acid' (mRNA) which is found in all cells in your body and tells your body how to make proteins. This teaches cells how to make copies of the protein, which then stimulates the immune system to make antibodies. After the mRNA delivers its instructions, your body breaks it down and gets rid of it.

### How effective is Moderna?

The Moderna vaccine has been shown to offer very high levels of protection against the effects of Covid-19. Data from the clinical trials found it was 94.1% effective against COVID-19.

### Why am I being offered Moderna for my booster?

The Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has recommended that people should be given an mRNA vaccine for their booster (either Moderna or Pfizer) no matter which type of vaccine they had for their previous doses. This is because the clinical trials showed that this type of vaccine gave the best increase in immunity when given as a booster.

### Talk to your doctor, pharmacist, or nurse before your vaccine if you:

- have previously had a severe, life-threatening allergic reaction after any other vaccine injection or after you were given Spikevax in the past
- have a very weak or compromised immune system
- have ever fainted following any needle injection.
- have a bleeding disorder
- have anxiety related to injections or have fainted after an injection

### Do I have to wait for 15 minutes after having Moderna?

The guidance has recently changed, and your vaccinator will talk to you about whether you need to wait in the centre for 15 minutes after your vaccine.



## Are there any possible side effects?

All vaccines can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them, and they mostly go away within a few days. The common side effects from Moderna are the same as for the other COVID-19 vaccines and include:

- A painful, heavy feeling and tenderness in the arm you received your injection
- Feeling tired
- Headache
- General aches, or mild flu-like symptoms

Resting and taking paracetamol will normally help you to feel better. More information is contained in the links below.

### Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- Itchiness at the injection site

### Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1000 people)

- Temporary one-sided facial drooping (Bell's palsy) / Swelling of the face (Swelling of the face may occur in patients who have had facial cosmetic injections / Dizziness / Decreased sense of touch or sensation

### IF THESE HAPPEN, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR GP or 111

#### Very Rare

- Very rare cases of inflammation of the heart (myocarditis or pericarditis) have been reported following vaccination with Spikevax. These have happened most often in younger men and shortly after the second dose of the vaccine. Most of these cases were mild and people recovered soon after with simple treatment and rest.

It is important that you urgently seek medical attention if you experience new onset of symptoms such as chest pain, shortness of breath or feelings of having a fast-beat, fluttering, or pounding heart.

## Where can I find out more information?

If you have any further questions or concerns visit the TyneHealth website at <https://tynehealth.org.uk/covid-19/>. Our COVID-19 Information pages and FAQs should answer most residents' questions about many common vaccine concerns and queries or talk to your vaccinator.

#### Further information resources:

- [Moderna Patient Information Leaflet](#)
- [Summary of the Public Assessment Report for Moderna](#)
- [COVID-19: what to expect after vaccinations](#)