

Sussex COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Public messaging

Reassurance about the use of Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine

We are aware that there are concerns being raised by members of the public following reports of blood clots in relation to the Oxford AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and, most recently, the Irish authorities' action to temporarily suspend this vaccine.

This briefing helps to provide key messages to be able to respond to any concerns and to encourage uptake of the vaccination.

Key messages:

- We are aware that there have been reports about the Oxford AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, however the UK regulators are clear that the vaccine should continue to be used and people should attend their appointments.
- The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regulates medicines and is responsible for the regulation of the vaccines being offered as part of this programme and they have reviewed all of the evidence.
- Their statement says that the available evidence does not suggest that blood clots in veins (venous thromboembolism) are caused by COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca and people should go to their appointments as this is vital protection from COVID-19.
- This follows a detailed review of reported cases as well as data from hospital admissions and GP records.
- There is no evidence that blood clots in the veins are occurring more often in people who have received the vaccine than in people who have not, for either vaccine.
- The MHRA's advice remains that the benefits of the vaccine against COVID-19, with its associated risk of hospitalisation and death, continue to outweigh the risks of potential side effects.
- People should go and get their COVID-19 vaccine when asked to do so.
- Please continue to attend your appointment – this is really important protection for you – or –
- Please work with us to book your appointment - this is really important protection for you.

Additional Information

- A further, detailed review into five UK reports of a very rare and specific type of blood clot in the brain, together with lowered platelets (known as thrombocytopenia) is ongoing. This has been reported in less than 1 in a million people vaccinated so far in the UK and can also occur naturally.

After the vaccination:

- Whilst the MHRA continue to investigate these very rare cases, as a precautionary measure they are advising anyone with a headache that lasts for more than 4 days after vaccination, or bruising beyond the site of vaccination after a few days, to seek medical attention.

For more information

People can be directed to the MHRA for more information and their statements of reassurance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-regulator-confirms-that-people-should-continue-to-receive-the-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca>

For more FAQs relating to the vaccination programme:

<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>