



UK Health
Security
Agency

Vaccination of those who received COVID-19 vaccine overseas

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Background

In the UK, 4 coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines have been authorised, 3 of which are currently in use. Although these vaccines are also being administered in many other countries, a number of other different COVID-19 vaccines are also available. Some of these vaccines have been given emergency authorisation by the World Health Organization (WHO), some are currently under review and others have not yet been submitted for review.

The various COVID-19 vaccines differ in their immunogenicity and effectiveness. Whilst data on vaccine effectiveness is still evolving and limited for some vaccines, current data indicates that some vaccines appear to have lower effectiveness than others.

In order to optimise protection for individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccines abroad and who now plan to stay in the UK, guidance as to what further vaccination is recommended has been set out in the table below.

This document provides **clinical** advice, following consideration of whether additional doses would be beneficial to enhance protection. The advice given in this document may differ from the requirements for supplementary doses in order to obtain certification for travel or domestic (for example occupational) purposes. Specific information about this is available in separate guidance. Where someone is considered fully vaccinated from a clinical viewpoint, but may require additional doses for certification purposes, it is vital that this separate guidance is consulted as only certain products and doses may be recognised.

Those who have received vaccines as part of a clinical trial should seek advice from the trial investigators.

The information in this document was correct at time of publication. As knowledge about the effectiveness of the different COVID-19 vaccines is still evolving, **some recommendations may change**. The recommendations in this table will be reviewed regularly as more vaccines and information about the effectiveness of these vaccines becomes available. Please use the online version to ensure you are accessing the latest version.

General recommendations

If a person has received a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine overseas that is also available in the UK, they should receive the same vaccine for their second dose (unless contraindicated).

If the vaccine they received for their first dose is not available in the UK, the most similar alternative should be offered for the second dose (see table below).

If the vaccine received overseas is not listed in the table, a full course of the appropriate vaccine recommended for the individual in the UK (which may depend on their age) should be given.

COVID-19 vaccination programme: Information for healthcare practitioners

Those who are eligible to receive a booster dose (see [Green Book COVID-19](#) chapter) should be given a full dose (0.3ml) of Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or a half dose (0.25ml) of Moderna vaccine. In this instance, the minimum interval of 6 months should be from their final primary dose as defined below. So for those considered fully vaccinated before arrival, the 6 months is taken from their final dose given overseas; for those requiring one or more UK doses, the 6 month interval is taken from the final 'additional' dose given in the UK.

Vaccination of those who received COVID-19 vaccine overseas

Vaccine manufacturer	Vaccine names (if applicable)	Manufacturer's authorised schedule	UKHSA advice	UK alternative
AstraZeneca	Vaxzevria AZD1222	18yrs+, 2 doses, 4 to 12 weeks apart	<p>If partial primary vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete course with same vaccine if possible (or closest alternate) with at least 8 week interval from previous dose if more than 8 weeks since first dose, complete course as soon as possible <p>If complete primary course given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no further immediate vaccine needed unless severely immunosuppressed at or around time 1st or 2nd dose given in which case 3rd primary dose should be given** <p>Booster dose for both groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enrol for booster in UK if eligible and give minimum 6 months after final primary dose 	Any suitable locally available alternative
Pfizer BioNTech	Comirnaty BNT162b2	12yrs+, 2 doses, at least 3 weeks apart		Moderna
Institute of India	Covishield	18yrs+, 2 doses, 4 to 12 weeks apart		AstraZeneca
Moderna	Spikevax COVID-19 Vaccine mRNA-1273	12yrs+*, 2 doses, 4 weeks apart		Pfizer BioNTech
Novavax	NVX-CoV2373 Covovax	18yrs+, 2 doses, 3 weeks apart		Any suitable locally available alternative
Janssen/ Johnson & Johnson	COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen JNJ-78436735 Ad26.COV2.S	18yrs+, single dose		Not required as single dose schedule
Gamaleya National Centre of Epidemiology & Microbiology	Sputnik V Gam-COVID- Vac	18yrs+, 2 doses, 3 weeks apart		Any suitable locally available alternative

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Vaccine manufacturer	Vaccine names (if applicable)	Manufacturer's authorised schedule	UKHSA advice	UK alternative
Gamaleya National Centre of Epidemiology & Microbiology	Sputnik Light	18yrs+, single dose	If vaccinated with 1 or 2 doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide 1 dose of UK approved vaccine 8 weeks after previous dose 	Any suitable locally available alternative
Sinopharm	COVID-19 vaccine BIBP BBIBP-CorV	18yrs+, 2 doses (3 in some cases), 3 to 4 weeks apart	If vaccinated with 3 doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no further immediate vaccine needed 	Any suitable locally available alternative
Sinovac Biotech	CoronaVac	18yrs+, 2 doses, 2 to 4 weeks apart	Booster dose for both groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> enrol for booster in UK if eligible and give minimum 6 months after final primary dose 	Any suitable locally available alternative
CanSino Biologics	Ad5-nCoV Convidecia	18yrs+, single dose	If vaccinated with 1 or 2 doses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide 1 dose of UK approved vaccine 8 weeks after previous dose 	Any suitable locally available alternative
Bharat Biotech	Covaxin	2 doses, 4 weeks apart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enrol for booster in UK if eligible and give minimum 6 months after final 'additional' primary dose 	Any suitable locally available alternative

*although authorised for use from 12 years, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is not currently recommended for individuals under 18 years in the UK

**JCVI will review and issue advice at a later date as to whether severely immunosuppressed individuals require a further booster dose following completion of their 3-dose primary vaccine course

About the UK Health Security Agency

The UK Health Security Agency is an executive agency, sponsored by the [Department of Health and Social Care](#).

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