

## **Society for Endocrinology Statement on COVID-19 vaccines:**

### **Information for patients with endocrine conditions and diabetes mellitus**

As you will be well aware there is a Pfizer/BioNTech [COVID-19 vaccine](#) available and more vaccines are in development.

There are different COVID-19 vaccines that are in the very early stages of being rolled out across the NHS. You will be contacted by your GP when you are eligible for a vaccination. There is no need to ring to make an appointment. Diabetes mellitus and a number of endocrine disorders, including adrenal insufficiency and diabetes insipidus, will likely be classed as underlying health conditions.

This is a rapidly changing situation and information will be updated by the government [here](#). As some vaccines have to be stored at very low temperatures, they will be given in hubs rather than at GP surgeries - again the most up-to-date information will be on the government and NHS websites.

Full clinical trials are taking place and vaccines being rolled out have gone through full regulatory checks. As with all new drugs and vaccines there will be on-going safety checks.

We are not aware of any specific side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine that would be unique to people with endocrine conditions or diabetes mellitus, in the same way as there are no concerns about other vaccines. Each of the vaccines that are being developed have different potential side effects. If you have concerns about a COVID-19 vaccination, check the NHS vaccine pages to see if your queries are answered there. For any individual circumstances, you may need to talk to your GP.

#### **Can vaccines cause bad reactions?**

Some people may have a reaction to a vaccine. If you are offered a COVID-19 vaccine and are unwell, you are advised to rearrange your vaccination until you have recovered, so that you avoid complications. You can find out more about reactions to vaccines and the Yellow Card scheme for reporting them on the [NHS website](#). People with adrenal insufficiency are not at an increased risk of having bad reactions to vaccines, but if you were to feel unwell after vaccination, do double your hydrocortisone or prednisolone as you would normally for sick day rules.

It is also important to check the latest advice about any other conditions you have in combination with adrenal insufficiency. You can check the NHS website for more details about various types of [COVID-19 vaccines](#).