



NHS BORDERS VACCINATION SERVICE

VACCINATION REFERRALS

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS



V1.0

Why do we need vaccinations?

Vaccinations help protect us against serious, preventable diseases.

Once we have been vaccinated, our bodies develop immunity and are better able to fight these diseases if we come into contact with them. If we do come into contact with certain diseases, some vaccinations can help protect us even if given afterwards.

What's the difference between routine and non-routine vaccinations?

Patients in Scotland are offered **routine vaccinations** depending on their age and circumstances. Programmes for children, pregnant women, older adults and the entire population help provide protection throughout life.

Some patients may require certain vaccinations to booster immunity **outside routine programmes** because they may be at **higher risk from infection** due to:

- Underlying health conditions
- Upcoming or recent surgery
- Lifestyle factors
- Occupation
- Exposure to something that increases the risk of infection

The health professional treating a patient for their condition will identify if additional vaccinations are required and will make arrangements for a patient to receive them by referring the patient to NHS Borders Vaccination Service.

What is a referral?

Sometimes patients need **specialist care** from a team with certain expertise. A health professional will provide the specialist team with details of the patient and explain the need for this specialist treatment. This team will then make arrangements to provide the patient with this care. The health professional making a referral could be a doctor, nurse or another health specialist.

YOUR VACCINATION JOURNEY



The health professional treating you for your condition will identify which vaccination(s) you need.

They will explain to you the need for these vaccinations and will answer any questions you have.



The health professional will send a referral to NHS Borders Vaccination Service.

To make sure the Vaccination Service can treat you safely, your clinician will share your name and contact details, the vaccinations you require, timescales for treatment, and reason for your referral.



NHS Borders Vaccination Service will review the referral.

This can take up to one week but urgent referrals will be identified immediately.



NHS Borders Vaccination Hub will get in touch with you to make one or more appointments.

Vaccination clinics typically take place in Borders General Hospital or local health centres but arrangements are made for patients with limited mobility or who live in residential care.



To reschedule an appointment, contact NHS Borders Vaccination Hub 01896 809 250.

NHS Borders Vaccination Hub can reschedule your appointment or answer any questions you have.

The Vaccination Hub is open Monday to Friday 08:30 – 17:30.



Attend your appointment.

A nurse will discuss your vaccination(s), answer any questions you have then administer the vaccine(s).



Attend any follow up appointment(s).

It's essential you attend any further appointments to make sure you develop the best immunity possible.



Discuss any concerns about your condition with the health professional treating you.

If you have any questions about your health condition and reason for referral, discuss these with the health professional or service who made your vaccination referral or who is treating you on an ongoing basis.