

COVID VACCINES

THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ▶ Two doses of the Pfizer vaccine cut your chances of being ill by 85%, and cut the chances of you ending up in hospital or dying by 95%
- ▶ The risks of heart inflammation are far higher from catching COVID than from having the vaccine
- ▶ The vaccine dose not affect fertility or pregnancy

COVID VACCINES

Q&A

PEOPLE WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED ARE STILL GETTING COVID-19. SO WHY SHOULD I BOTHER GETTING THE VACCINE?

- › There's no such thing as a perfect vaccine, but being fully vaccinated dramatically reduces your chances of becoming seriously ill or dying.

For example, if you have two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, compared to someone who hasn't been jabbed, it will cut your chances of being ill by 85%, and cut the chances of you ending up in hospital or dying by 95%

I'M YOUNG AND FIT, ISN'T THE VACCINE JUST FOR OLD PEOPLE?

- › No. Many young, healthy, professional athletes have been hospitalised with COVID. Nobody is immune. Vaccination is now being offered to people aged 12 upwards and it is advised that all people over 26 get double jabbed.

I'VE HAD COVID, SO DO I EVEN NEED THE VACCINE NOW?

- › Yes, you still should get the vaccine as it will drastically improve your chances of you, your team-mates and your family staying COVID free and healthy.

CAN I TRAVEL ABROAD OR GO ON HOLIDAY WITHOUT THE VACCINE?

- › Not easily. Most countries are insisting on a COVID passport for travel and it's going to be difficult for players to get to some international fixtures, travel home outside of the UK or go on holiday abroad unless you have been double-jabbed.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER BENEFITS?

- › If you're double-jabbed, you don't need to isolate for 10 days in the UK and if you're a close contact of a positive case, all you've got to do is make sure your tests keep coming back negative.

That means you will miss less training and you're going to miss fewer games too.



COVID VACCINES

Q&A

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE VACCINE?

- Millions of people have had a vaccine and the safety of the vaccines continues to be monitored. Reports of serious side effects are very rare (Source: NHS England). While there can be more serious side effects, thankfully these are extremely rare.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT HEART INFLAMMATION & COVID VACCINES?

- In short - players are far, far more likely to develop heart muscle inflammation from catching COVID-19, compared to having the vaccine.

CAN THE VACCINE AFFECT FERTILITY?

- No. There is no evidence of this. (Source: Association of Reproductive and Clinical Scientists and the British Fertility Society). There are no known links and there is no scientific evidence to suggest vaccines impact fertility in men or women.

WAS THE VACCINE TESTED PROPERLY?

- Vaccines were heavily tested and had to go through a rigorous process to ensure all standards needed were met. It was developed quickly in response to the global challenge presented by COVID but no shortcuts were taken.

CAN I CHOOSE WHICH VACCINE I HAVE?

- As younger people under 40, athletes are likely to be given Pfizer vaccine.

DOES THE VACCINE CONTAIN ALCOHOL OR ANIMAL PRODUCTS?

- The AstraZeneca vaccine contains a very small amount of alcohol, but not enough to cause any noticeable effects. The Pfizer vaccine is alcohol-free. (Source: .GOV.UK website)

There are no animal products in any of the COVID vaccines that are being used in the UK.

I'M STILL NOT SURE, ANYTHING ELSE?

- The vaccine and the vaccine programme has allowed us to restart society and loads of major organised sporting events, including Rugby League.

