

Reporting a possible side effect to a COVID-19 vaccine – a guide for Children and Young People

What is a side effect?

If you are prescribed a medicine or given a vaccine, it is meant to help you feel better or prevent illness. Sometimes medicines and vaccines can also cause other problems, which are called 'side effects'. Your vaccine has information available [online](#) (Patient Information Leaflet) that tells you about the known side effects. Most are mild and do not last long, and not everyone gets them. You may need to ask a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or an adult you trust to help you.

Who are the MHRA and why do they want to know about side effects?

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) keeps a watch over all medicines and vaccines to make sure they are safe, are used properly, and don't harm people. They collect information about side effects (called 'Yellow Card reports') from people of all ages who get side effects. This means that if you think you may have had a side effect, and want to help keep vaccines safe, the MHRA would like you to send in a Yellow Card report. It is important for the MHRA to work out which vaccines are giving children and young people side effects and learn about new side effects, as it may be possible to change something to help others in the future.

What should I do if I am worried I may have had a side effect?

If you are worried, then talking to a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or another adult you trust, may help. You can also:

- Contact NHS 111 in England and Scotland on 111 (textphone 18001 111)
- NHS Direct Wales/Galw IECHYD Cymru on 0845 46 47 (textphone 0845 606 46 47)
- [NHS Northern Ireland](#)

What side effects can be reported on a Yellow Card?

You can report **any** side effect you think you may have had on a Yellow Card even if taking multiple medicines and vaccines or with food/drink. The side effect you are worried about may not be on the leaflet (Patient Information Leaflet) that is available for the vaccine, that is ok, it might be a new effect and you can still report.

When should I report the side effect?

You can report a side effect anytime. If you were taking other medicines at the time of your vaccine and are not sure which one caused the side effect, you can put the names of all the medicines on the report.

How do I report the side effect?

You can fill out a Yellow Card report in different ways:

1. Using a computer or smart phone (with permission), go to <https://coronavirus-yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>
2. Using the Yellow card app on a mobile phone or tablet.
3. You can ask a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or adult you trust to complete a Yellow Card with you.

The MHRA may need to ask some more questions about your side effect, so they will need a way of contacting you or an adult you trust if you give their details. The MHRA will not share your personal information, or those of your trusted adult, with anyone else.

Scan the QR code to be taken straight to the Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site.

