NHS Greater Manchester

Bury Council

Worried about having several winter vaccines?

It is OK to have questions. This leaflet explains why you may be offered more than one vaccine.

Different vaccines, different protection

Flu, COVID-19, RSV, pneumococcal disease and shingles are different infections. Each vaccine protects you from a different infection. The vaccines offered to you depend on things like your age, pregnancy and health.

Why might I be offered several vaccines?

Which vaccines you need depends on you

Not everyone needs the same vaccines. You may be offered a vaccine because of your age, pregnancy or health.

Your body can respond to more than one vaccine

Your immune system deals with many germs every day. Having more than one recommended vaccine does not "use up" your immune system.

Vaccination teams follow NHS guidance

Some vaccines can be given at the same appointment. Others are better given on different days. Your vaccination team will tell you what is best for you.

Important to know

For example, RSV and COVID-19 vaccines can be given together. For older adults, RSV and flu vaccines are usually given on different days to help the body make the best response. Sometimes they may still be given together. Your vaccination team will advise you.

Common questions

"Why do I need another vaccine if I have had my flu jab?"	Each vaccine protects against a different infection.
"Am I having too many at once?"	Vaccination teams follow NHS guidance about which vaccines can be given together and which are better given on different days.
"Can I ask to discuss them first?"	Yes. You can ask what each vaccine is for, why it is offered to you, and whether you should have it now or on another day.

Still unsure?

Talk to your GP practice, community pharmacist or vaccination team. They can check which vaccines are recommended for you and help you plan your appointments.

Remember

You do not have to work it out alone. Ask: "Which vaccines do I need? What does each one protect me from? When should I have them?"

Need help or more information?

Visit: nhs.uk/vaccinations

Ask your GP surgery or local pharmacy

Need medical help now, but it is not an emergency? Use NHS 111 online or call 111.

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Based on NHS and UK Health Security Agency vaccination guidance. Guidance and eligibility can change, so check NHS advice or speak to a health professional.