VACCINATION FOR COVID-19

Overview

- There are now 3 Covid-19 vaccines approved for use in the UK:
  - Pfizer/BioNTech
  - Oxford/Astra Zeneca
  - Moderna

- There are at least 4 others in the pipe line which the UK have ordered

- In total the UK government has ordered 367 million doses

Safety of the Vaccines

- Vaccines are highly regulated products
- Safety has not been compromised in the development of these vaccines
- All approved vaccines have gone through all stages of clinical trial required with tens of thousands of people involved in the trials
- Any vaccine will only be authorised once it has met strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness
- All the data is rigorously reviewed by scientists

How have they done it so fast?

- No problem recruiting to trials
- Huge focus – global pandemic
- Trials run in parallel
- Government funding towards research
- Funding for the pharmaceutical industry to manufacture "at risk"
- Previous experience of the scientists involved
- Methods being developed for decades
- Vaccine Task Force
- Rolling assessment of data

Myths

- **Myth:** The vaccines aren't safe because they were developed quickly. This is FALSE

- **Myth:** You can get COVID-19 from the vaccines. This is FALSE

- **Myth:** I've already had COVID-19, so I don't need to get vaccinated. This is FALSE

- **Myth:** People with underlying conditions shouldn't get vaccinated. This is FALSE

Myths Continued

- **Myth:** People with suppressed immune systems shouldn't get vaccinated. This is FALSE

- **Myth:** The COVID-19 vaccines will alter your DNA. This is FALSE

- **Myth:** Once I get vaccinated, I don't have to wear masks or practice social distancing. This is FALSE

- **Myth:** The vaccine will contain a microchip that will track me for the rest of my life. This is FALSE

Will I get any side effects from the vaccine?

- The most common side effects are:
    - Pain/tenderness at the injection site
    - Fatigue
    - Headache
    - Muscle pains
    - Fever

- Paracetamol and/or ibuprofen can help

- These are usually mild and last a day or two

- Some people experience no side effects at all

Should I get vaccinated?

- No one is going to force you to have the vaccine
- The vaccines have been proven to be safe and effective
- There is no way of knowing how severely Covid-19 may affect you
- Vaccines can prevent you getting Covid-19 or reduce the risk of severe disease
- You protect yourself and others around you
- Putting all the tools we have in place will help stop the pandemic

- Groups at risk have been prioritised – you will be contacted to make an appointment