

Covid Vaccine Given Abroad – FAQ

Vallance Vaccination Clinic

26/02/22

Guide written by Dr Tony Gu, Clinical Director for the Vallance Covid Vaccine clinic and GP at Vallance Medical Centre

Please note this guide was written on the 25th February 2022. This replaces our previous guidance of the 21st December 2021. These rules are constantly changing so please check the information is up to date on our website and on the gov.uk website links listed below.

The main changes since the 21st December 2021 guidance is that the Chinese Sinopharm and Sinovac, and Indian Covaxin and Covishield vaccines have been approved for the covid passport.

We typically divide Covid-19 Vaccines into two categories:

1. Approved to be given in the UK
2. those not approved to be given in the UK.

The UK approved vaccines to be given in the UK are:

- Astrazeneca (AZ, Covishield, Vaxzevira)
- Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty)
- Moderna (Spikevax)
- Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)

The vaccines approved for entry to the UK AND for the Covid Passport are the four above and the following (these have been initially approved for the passport on the 11th February and digitally enabled on the 25th February 2022):

- Covaxin (Bharat)
- Sinovac (KeXing, Coronavac)
- Sinopharm (BBIBP-CorV, BIBP, WIBP-CorV, VeroCell)
- Covishield (Insitute of India)

In this guide, “UK approved” means approved to be given in the UK (all 8 of the above vaccines).

I had a UK approved vaccine abroad, can I have the second dose or booster in the UK?

If the jab given were AZ/Pfizer/Moderna – then we would treat your vaccination as the same as if it was given in the UK.

If you needed a second dose or booster, we can give you these without any problems. We can record them on the UK records as the relevant second or booster dose.

If you had the Sinovac or Sinopharm and:

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- You have had one dose of Sinopharm/Sinovac already, you should have a second dose using any of the UK vaccines 8 weeks after your first. You then should have a booster 3 months after your second dose.
- If you have had two doses of Sinopharm/Sinovac already, and your second dose was less than three months ago, you should have one UK vaccine dose as a “second dose”, followed by a booster vaccine 3 months after your second vaccine.
- If you have had two doses of Sinopharm/Sinovac already, and your second dose was more than three months ago, you should have one UK vaccine dose as a “booster”
- If you have had three doses of Sinopharm/Sinovac already, you should have a UK dose of vaccine as a “booster” at least 3 months after your last vaccine.

If you have had the Covaxin or Covishield, you can treat these as the same as having had a UK given vaccine.

A full list of the guidance can be found here on the gov.uk website:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054268/COVID-19-vaccination-of-individuals-vaccinated-overseas-11-Feb-2022.pdf

I had my vaccine in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

The four UK countries have different IT databases and these are not yet talking to each other. If you have had your vaccine in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland you will not have the vaccine on your GP records in England and vice versa. It will be the same as if you had the vaccine abroad. We believe the UK government is trying to merge these eventually.

You can access individual Covid Passes through the NHS Scotland, NHS Wales and NHS NI pages:

Northern Ireland: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/apply-travel-covid-vaccination-certificate>

Scotland: <https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19status>

Wales: <https://gov.wales/get-your-nhs-covid-pass>

There are separate pages for Guernsey, Isle of Man and Jersey.

I had a different vaccine abroad that is not approved in the UK

NHS England have released some guidance about these and their equivalence to the UK approved vaccines.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054268/COVID-19-vaccination-of-individuals-vaccinated-overseas-11-Feb-2022.pdf

Please note, if you have non-UK approved vaccines abroad, and then have a partial course of vaccines in the UK, you will have an incomplete UK Covid Vaccine Pass. This may make it difficult for you to prove Covid vaccination for travel and other purposes (please see the section below about Covid Pass). It may be worth considering completing a full UK course of Covid vaccines if this is an important factor for you.

Having the UK approved vaccines after having other vaccines has been proven in many research trials to be safe and sometimes more effective than a single type of vaccine.

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If I had vaccines abroad how do I get a Covid Vaccine Pass?

The Covid Vaccine Pass is a UK method of proving you are vaccinated. It is used in travel and sometimes for professional or leisure purposes. There is a specific pass for travel and one for leisure and other purposes.

Only vaccines given in the UK will automatically appear on the UK Covid pass. The pass is accessed via the NHS app, but can also be requested from the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/>

For those who had UK approved Covid vaccines abroad, you can request to have these added onto your Covid Pass through the NHS page here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/tell-nhs-about-coronavirus-vaccinations-abroad/>

Please note that the Vallance Centre runs a walk-in service for vaccines at Rates Hall (Town Hall), near the central Library, postcode M2 5DB, which allows you to put UK approved vaccines given abroad onto the covid passport.

A full list of sites that run this walk-in service for the covid passport are listed here:

https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500362/covid-19/8079/covid-19_vaccination_programme/8

If you had non-UK approved vaccines abroad, currently there is no way to get these added onto your Covid Vaccine pass. We know this is a stressful issue for travel in particular. Each airline has its own rules about how to accept evidence for vaccinations, and vaccine requirements will vary from country to country too.

VisaGuide has released a helpful tool for travellers trying to identify vaccine requirements for different countries (please note this is an external website which we cannot be responsible for):

<https://visaguide.world/news/vaccine-checker-proof-of-immunity-for-travel/>

Furthermore, having a mix of UK and non-UK vaccines can make deciding whether you are fully vaccinated difficult for individual countries.

How does the vaccination get recorded on the IT system?

The records from the vaccination today will appear on the NHS national data input service (PharmaOutcomes) which then uploads to another database called NIMS. NIMS then talks directly to GP records.

Most vaccines will get recorded but some will not due to one of the following possibilities

1. Human error
2. Database error (not able to transfer between databases)
3. Other technical IT problem (eg No NHS number)

The whole process takes about 4-5 days. If there are any data entry problems, our registered patients can contact our admin team through our website and we can correct the issues. Patients

who are not registered with our practice need to go to the original vaccine site to correct their data entry problems.

Do I need an NHS number or be registered with a GP to have my vaccination?

You do not need either but you are unable to access the Covid passport without both a GP registration and an NHS number.

An NHS number takes about 10 days to generate after registration with a GP.