

Information for people requesting a different second dose Covid-19 vaccine to their first.

What we know about vaccination.

- All Covid vaccines can have side effects. These include pain at injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain and fever. This should not be a reason to have a different vaccine for the second dose.
- Evidence and national recommendation is that first and second dose vaccines should be of the same brand.
- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (independent experts) states that 'Individuals who have received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine should complete the course with the same vaccine, with the exception of those who experience an episode of thrombosis combined with thrombocytopenia.'

Why do scientists suggest that you should stick with the same vaccine for your second dose?

- We do not know yet the effectiveness of mixing vaccine types for first and second dose.
- We have good trial and real-life data that two doses of the same vaccine brand produces high rates of immunity and good protection from catching Covid-19 and also of reducing spread of the disease to others.
- Real life data shows two doses of vaccine are necessary to get the levels of immunity needed to provide good protection against the latest Covid virus variant that originated in India.

In Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos our position is that:

We cannot routinely offer alternative brands unless the above exceptional circumstance have occurred, We are required to administer vaccines in line with the national recommendations and vaccine availability.

- If having considered the above advice, you still prefer not to accept the national offer of the same dose we will endeavor to contact you to offer you an alternative. However, this is dependent on there being sufficient supply of the alternative brand before the scheduled date of your second vaccine available. In making this personal choice you accept the risk we may not be able to provide an alternative.
- While you are waiting for an alternative vaccine brand to your first please continue to reflect on the above information and national advice. If you change your mind and wish to have your recommended second dose please contact your vaccine centre.
- Taking all above advice into consideration if you still choose to request an alternative please sign below to confirm you understand the risk and benefits of your choice. You will be required to take this document with you to the vaccine centre.
- This document will be forwarded to your GP and maintained in your confidential medical record.

Name _____ D.O.B _____ Signature _____