

KEY VOCABULARY

VACCINE =

Something that protects a person from disease

IMMUNISE =

When a vaccine helps your body to fight an infection

IMMUNE SYSTEM =

How a body recognises and fights an infection

NEWS CYCLE

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

Is a vaccine the beginning of the end for covid-19?



At the beginning of December, the UK became the first country in the world to approve a covid-19 vaccine. On Tuesday December 8th, a mass vaccination programme began. The vaccine, made by Pfizer and BioNTech, offers up to 95% protection against covid-19.

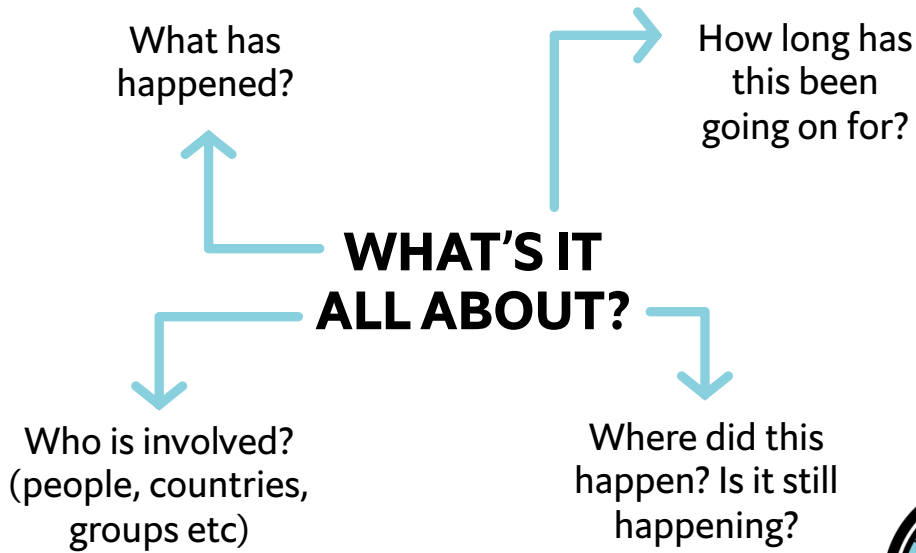
So far, the UK government has 800,000 doses to give out and it has decided that the most vulnerable people should be protected first. This means those over the age of 80, front-line health workers and care staff are at the top of the list to receive the vaccine.

In total, the UK has ordered 40 million doses of the vaccine, which will immunise 20 million people. For this vaccine to work at full affect, people should have a second dose 21 days after their first. Scientists have proved that this helps the body to recognise the coronavirus so people's immune system can fight infection in the future.

Mrs Bahl, who is in her 90s and lives on her own in south London, was one of the first to receive the vaccine. Like many, she has struggled during lockdown but the vaccine has brought her hope. "I feel like the luckiest person having the vaccination so soon!" she said. "As others have it, turn by turn, we can hopefully start to see more of our family and friends."

The health secretary, Matt Hancock, shared this positivity. However he has warned that there is "a long march ahead".

Want to know more? Look here! [bbc.co.uk/newsround/55156182](https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/55156182)



NEWS SCALE

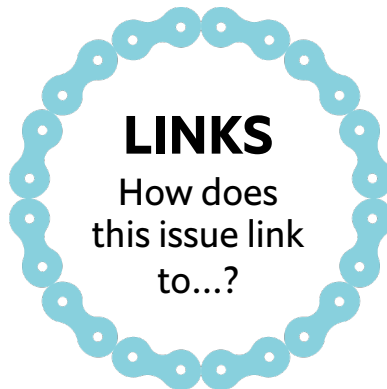
Is this a big issue for you? Mark your opinion on the scale below with an X. What about world leaders? Where would they put their X? What about someone who has had the virus?



A school subject?

NEWS CONCEPT: scarcity?

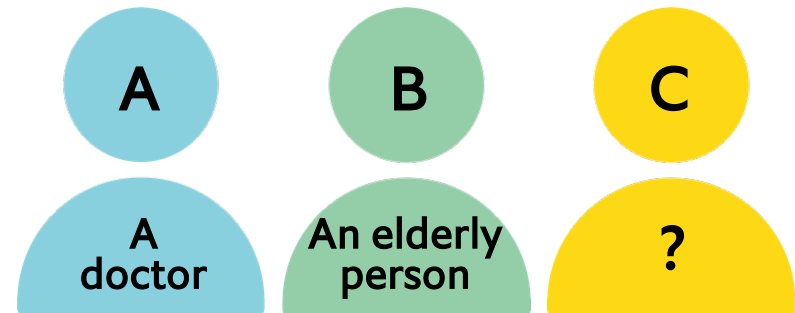
A different news story?



Your life?

PERSPECTIVE FLIP

What would Person A think about this issue? How are they affected by the issue? Now flip to Person B and think about the same questions. Are any perspectives missing?



CHALLENGE: how is this issue developing in the news?

First, limber up by thinking about everything you learnt last week:

- What was the key information about this issue? (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)
- Why was this issue news? (How big was this piece of news? How many people does it affect? Is it global or local news?)
- What did you think about it? Did everyone you talked to have the same opinion?
- What have you seen about this in the news? How is this issue developing?

Then, take a ride through this week's activities.

WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?

It is difficult to transport and store the Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine, as it needs to be kept at

-70C.



When it is in a normal fridge, like those in doctors' surgeries, it must be used within 3.5 days.



Scientists have been developing a different covid-19 vaccine in Oxford that is much cheaper and easier to store. Early studies show that it may be up to

90% effective



if a half-dose of the vaccine is given initially.

A vaccine that can protect over 90% of people is excellent. In comparison, the flu vaccine, which is given to millions of people every year, is only

40-60% effective.



For the pandemic to be brought under control in the UK, scientists think about

55%



of the population need to have immunity. In one poll, 75% of people said they were "likely" to accept the vaccine but only 42% said that they would "definitely" do so.

The vaccine is not compulsory.

There are currently
no plans

for children to be offered a vaccine against covid-19.

TURN THE COGS

1. This issue is about more than a vaccine.
Can you explain the bigger picture?
2. Is it fair that children are unlikely to receive the vaccine? Why / why not?
3. Look at the facts on the previous page.
 - What evidence is there to show covid-19 could be brought under control?
 - What are some of the problems that the UK might face, even with a vaccine?

Support your answers with a fact and explain why.

SHOW OFF YOUR SKILLS



How are your opinions similar or different to others?



What would you ask an expert on this topic?



Do you have any ideas about how the vaccinations could be organised?



How can you tell the difference between the truth and misinformation about vaccines?

PUSH YOURSELF

Rich countries are hoarding doses of covid-19 vaccines, with some countries buying enough to vaccinate their entire populations three times over.

This means that poorer countries stand to miss out. With what's left, they might be able to vaccinate only one tenth of their populations to begin with.

- Should countries be allowed to order as many doses as they want? Why / why not?
- Do richer countries have a responsibility to help poorer countries get vaccinated?

TYRE CHANGE

Brakes on! Let's change the scenario.



More people choose not to have the vaccine than accept it?



Some countries make people pay for the vaccine?



A vaccine has side-effects?

Challenge: can you spot this issue in the news? How has the issue developed since last week?