

Advice to PCN LVS centres and GPs - for individuals with a previous allergic reaction having the Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine excipients:

- ALC-0315 = (4-hydroxybutyl) azanediyl)bis (hexane-6,1-diyl)bis(2-hexyldecanoate)
- ALC-0159 = 2-[(**polyethylene glycol (PEG)**)-2000]-N,N-ditetradecylacetamide
- 1,2-Distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine
- cholesterol
- potassium chloride
- potassium dihydrogen phosphate
- sodium chloride
- disodium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate
- sucrose
- water for injections

AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine excipients:

- L-Histidine
- L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate
- Magnesium chloride hexahydrate
- **Polysorbate 80**
- Ethanol
- Sucrose
- Sodium chloride
- Disodium edetate dihydrate
- Water for injections

1. Proceed with the vaccination as planned for:

- Previous allergy (including anaphylaxis) to antibiotics (where the drug is identified), foods, insect sting and latex.

2. First dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine:

The Green book states:

- Individuals with a prior history of systemic allergic reaction (including immediate-onset anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or any component of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine **should not receive it. Refer patient to allergy clinic.**
- Individuals with a history of immediate onset-anaphylaxis to multiple classes of drugs (i.e. 3 or more), history of anaphylaxis to a vaccine or an unexplained anaphylaxis **should not be vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, discuss with allergy Specialist for further advice.**
- Individuals with a prior history of systemic allergic reaction (including immediate-onset anaphylaxis) to the first dose of the Moderna vaccine should not receive the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. **These patients should be referred to an allergy specialist.**

Further information regarding PEG:

- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine contains PEG, a known allergen commonly found in medicines and also in household goods and cosmetics. Medicines containing PEG include some tablets, laxatives, depot steroid injections, and some bowel preparations used for colonoscopy.

3. First dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine:

The Green book states:

- Individuals with a prior history of systemic allergic reaction (including immediate-onset anaphylaxis) to a previous dose or any **component** of the AstraZeneca vaccine **should not receive it. Refer patient to allergy clinic.**
- Individuals with a history of anaphylaxis to a vaccine or history of an unexplained anaphylaxis, **discuss with allergy Specialist for further advice.**

4. [Contact details for GSTT allergy specialist:](#)

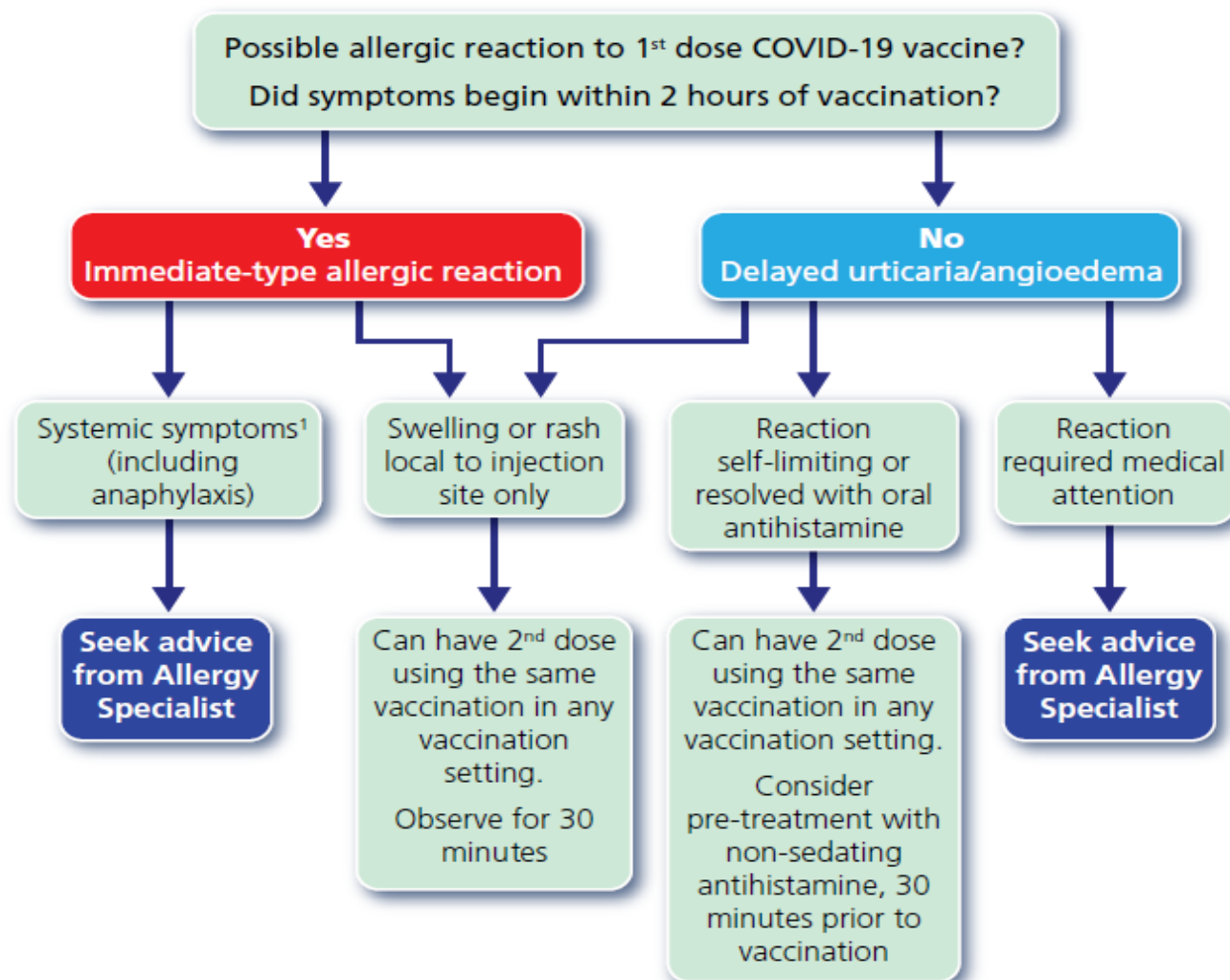
Advice and guidance for the COVID-19 vaccine:

- LVS centres to fill in table in Appendix 3 and refer patients back to respective GPs.
- GP completes A&G request on e-RS for GSTT adult allergy service. They will reply via e-RS within 24 hours (Monday-Friday) with the next steps and will ask for a full referral if your patient needs to be seen in clinic for further investigations.

5. [Second dose of Pfizer or AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine:](#)

Please see the flowchart below (Appendix 1) for managing patients who have allergic reactions to the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

[Appendix 1: Flowchart for managing patients who have allergic reactions to the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Taken from The Green book:](#)



Appendix 2: Management of patients with a history of allergy taken from Chapter 14a of the Green book.

	Proceed with vaccination	Special precautions	Vaccination contra-indicated
PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● previous allergic reaction (including anaphylaxis) to a food, insect sting and most medicines (where trigger has been identified) ● family history of allergies ● previous non-systemic reaction to a vaccine ● hypersensitivity to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs e.g. aspirin, ibuprofen ● mastocytosis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● history of immediate anaphylaxis to multiple, different drug classes, with the trigger unidentified (this may indicate PEG allergy) ● history of anaphylaxis to a vaccine, injected antibody preparation or a medicine likely to contain PEG (e.g. depot steroid injection, laxative) ● history of idiopathic anaphylaxis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prior systemic allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine ● for an mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine, prior allergic reaction to another mRNA vaccine ● prior allergic reaction to a component of the vaccine, including PEG
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● proceed with vaccination as normal, according to local guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● discuss with allergy specialist and consider possibility of PEG-allergy ● consider observation for 30 minutes if vaccination proceeds (see precautions) ● some patients may benefit from pretreatment with antihistamine, however this may mask initial symptoms of a reaction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● do not give vaccine in question ● refer to allergist

