



**Reply to** Julie Northcott  
**E-mail**  
**Date** 19 February 2021

Dear Church Leader,

Please could you share the following message with your congregation at your next available opportunity.

Since the pandemic started more than 119,000 people across the UK have died of coronavirus (COVID-19) within 28 days of a positive test. Although rates of COVID-19 infection and hospitalisation are falling during this current period of lockdown, they remain high.

People of black and minority ethnic backgrounds have also been more severely affected by COVID-19.

There is clear evidence that some people are worried about having a vaccine, but this vaccine is the key to reducing severe illness and saving lives.

We know that the vaccine is safe. It has been trialled in the UK and internationally, and all vaccines are constantly monitored for safety. We also know that no vaccine related deaths have occurred to date.

Over 17 million people have been vaccinated in the UK, and in Bristol over 75% of those eligible in the top four priority groups have now had their first vaccine. Vaccination is the single most effective way to reduce deaths and severe illness from COVID-19 and both vaccines currently in use (Pfizer Biotech and AstraZeneca) have shown high levels of protection against symptomatic infections with COVID-19.

Although some people do experience side effects after vaccination, as shown in the vaccination information leaflet, such as fatigue, soreness around the injection site or a headache, these do not last for very long and severe allergic reactions to the vaccines have been very rare, with only 1 to 2 cases per 100,000 vaccinations given.

No other safety concerns have been identified from reports received so far.



**People Directorate**  
City Hall, College Green,  
Bristol, BS1 5TR

**Christina Gray**  
Director of Public Health

**Website**  
[www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk)

If anyone would like more information you can find more details about the vaccination here [COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar - YouTube](#)

Thank you for sharing this message. Getting vaccinated will help save lives and at this time we need as many people to do this as possible

Yours Faithfully,

**Julie Northcott,**  
Consultant in Public Health,  
Health Protection MFPH, MPH, BA (Hons)  
Communities and Public Health Division  
Bristol City Council



**People Directorate**  
City Hall, College Green,  
Bristol, BS1 5TR

**Christina Gray**  
Director of Public Health

**Website**  
[www.bristol.gov.uk](http://www.bristol.gov.uk)