Dear [patient name]

The vaccine that will protect you from COVID-19 is now being offered to people aged 80 and over in Scotland.

# Reduce your risk of getting COVID-19

The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19. With high rates of COVID-19 around, it’s more important than ever to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Getting your COVID-19 vaccine is one of the most important reasons for leaving your home**.**

# How does the vaccine work?

The COVID-19 vaccine does not cause COVID-19. It helps to build up your immunity to the virus, so your body will fight it off more easily if it affects you. This can reduce your risk of developing COVID-19 or, if you do get COVID-19, it can make the symptoms milder.

# Is the vaccine safe?

NHS Scotland will only use a vaccine if it meets the required standards of safety and effectiveness. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has approved COVID-19 vaccines for use in the UK.

# How to get your COVID-19 vaccine

[Insert local information/appointment details]

# Further information

If you have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit [www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)or call **0800 030 8013** (available 8am–8pm, 7 days a week). It will not be possible to book or change your vaccination appointments via the helpline.

Helping to fight COVID-19 starts with all of us. So please, get your vaccine when you are offered it.

Yours faithfully

[Insert local information]