

# COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 46


Welcome to Bulletin 46 from the HSE National Immunisation Office which highlights changes in clinical guidance for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

## No recommendation for a 2nd booster for anyone

At present the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) does not recommend a second booster dose for anyone, regardless of their age or medical condition.

Only one booster dose is recommended for individuals aged 12 years and older. The interval between the booster dose and the last dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is as follows:

- Age 12-15: at least 6 months**
- Age 16 years and older: at least 3 months**



**Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 Vaccines**  
This is a summary of information, the full clinical guidance and NIAC guidelines should be consulted at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

| Vaccine   | Cominaty® Children's Formulation | Cominaty® (Pfizer BioNTech)   | Spikevax® (Moderna) | COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen® | Nuvaxovid® (Novavax) |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Primary vaccination course (recommended for people aged 5 years and older)</b> |                                  |   |                     |                           |                      |
| Age   | 5-11 years                       | 12 years  | 16 years            | 18 years                  | 18 years             |
| Dose  | 0.2mls                           | 0.3mls  | 0.5mls              | 0.5mls                    | 0.5mls               |
| Interval between 1st and 2nd dose   | 21 days                          | 21-28 days  | 28 days             | Not applicable            | 21 days              |
| Interval since COVID-19 infection   | At least 28 days                 | At least 28 days  | At least 28 days    | At least 28 days          | At least 28 days     |
| <b>Additional dose for immunocompromised*</b>                                     |                                  |   |                     |                           |                      |
| Age   | 5-11 years                       | 12 years  | 16 years            | 18 years                  | 18 years***          |
| Dose  | 0.2mls                           | 0.3mls  | 0.5mls              | 0.5mls                    | 0.5mls               |
| Interval since last dose  | 28 days                          | 2 months  | 2 months            | 2 months                  | 2 months             |
| Interval since COVID-19 infection   | At least 3 months                | At least 3 months   | At least 3 months   | At least 3 months         | At least 3 months    |
| <b>Booster dose**</b>   |                                  |   |                     |                           |                      |
| Age   | 5-11 years                       | 12 years  | 16 years            | 18 years                  | 18 years***          |
| Dose  | Not recommended                  | 0.3mls  | 0.5mls              | 0.5mls                    | 0.5mls               |
| Interval since last dose  | Not recommended                  | Age 12-15 years:<br>• at least 6 months<br>• if immunocompromised:<br>at least 3 months                   | At least 3 months   | At least 3 months         | At least 5 months    |
| Interval since COVID-19 infection   | Not recommended                  | Age 12-15 years (including immunocompromised):<br>at least 6 months<br>Age 16 years:<br>at least 3 months | At least 3 months   | At least 3 months         | At least 3 months    |

\*An additional dose is recommended for immunocompromised people aged 5 years and older  
\*\*A booster dose is recommended for people aged 12 years and older  
\*\*\*Do not apply if the person received Nuvaxovid® as a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose (homologous Nuvaxovid® primary course)

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**Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 Vaccines** [Download here](#)

## Additional dose for people who are immunocompromised at the time of vaccination

Individuals with immune-compromise **at the time of primary COVID-19 vaccination** may have a sub-optimal response to the vaccine. They are recommended an additional dose to enhance their response to the primary vaccination course. **It is person's condition at the time that they receive the primary vaccination course that determines whether or not they need an additional dose.** Following the administration of the additional dose, they are also recommended a booster dose which should be given at the appropriate interval for their age.

The immunocompromising conditions associated with a suboptimal response to the primary vaccination course are shaded in blue in Table 5a.2 of the Immunisation Guidelines.

**NIAC recommendations** [Read more here](#)

People who are at risk of severe COVID-19 disease, but do not have immunocompromise associated with a poor immune response at the time of vaccination, do not need an additional dose (e.g. diabetes, heart failure and conditions shaded in white in Table 5a.2). They are considered to develop an adequate immune response to the primary vaccination course. They need a booster dose after the primary vaccination course.

# Advice on vaccination for people coming to Ireland from Ukraine

Ireland has started to welcome people from Ukraine in recent weeks. At the National Immunisation Office we aim to support the Ukrainian people by developing information resources for healthcare professionals who are advising people coming to Ireland from Ukraine.

In this week's bulletin we provide advice in relation to vaccinations for children and adults from the Ukraine. We hope that this information will assist health care providers to ensure that all children and adults are appropriately vaccinated against vaccine preventable diseases.

We will update and further develop this information, so please keep an eye on [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) for details.

## [In this week's bulletin you will find:](#)

- ✓ Childhood immunisation schedule in Ukraine
- ✓ Information on catch up vaccinations pre and post 12 months
- ✓ Ordering vaccines
- ✓ Information for Healthcare Professionals on COVID-19 vaccination for people coming from Ukraine
- ✓ Further resources



# Children who have come to Ireland from Ukraine: Information for healthcare professionals on catch-up vaccination

It is important that children coming to Ireland from Ukraine are age-appropriately vaccinated to protect them against vaccine preventable diseases.

**Measles is circulating in Ukraine and recent outbreaks of polio and measles have been detected. Children may be living in congregate settings such as Hotels or Reception Centres where the spread of infectious diseases is a risk. As a priority every effort should be made to ensure that children are up to date with MMR and polio-containing vaccines.**

Children from Ukraine should follow the Irish immunisation schedule. This is because they will be living in Ireland for some time and should be protected from diseases that are common and/or have serious consequences in Ireland.

## Approach to immunisation for a child from Ukraine attending healthcare

- Check immunisation status (pay particular attention to **MMR and Polio-containing vaccines**):
  - Ask the parent or guardian if the child has been age-appropriately vaccinated according to the Ukrainian schedule (see section 2 below)
  - Are immunisation records available?
  - Children and adults coming to Ireland who do not have a documented or reliable verbal history of immunisation, should be assumed to be unimmunised. This includes those coming from areas of conflict such as Ukraine. It may be assumed that undocumented doses have not been received, and the Irish catch-up recommendations for that age should be followed.
- Administer catch-up vaccines for the child's age if required. Children from Ukraine should follow the Irish immunisation schedule. This is because they will be living in Ireland for some time and so should be protected from diseases that are common and/or have serious consequences in Ireland.

## Childhood Immunisation Schedule in Ukraine

In Ukraine children are offered vaccines to prevent Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae, Hepatitis B and pneumococcal disease before 12 months of age.

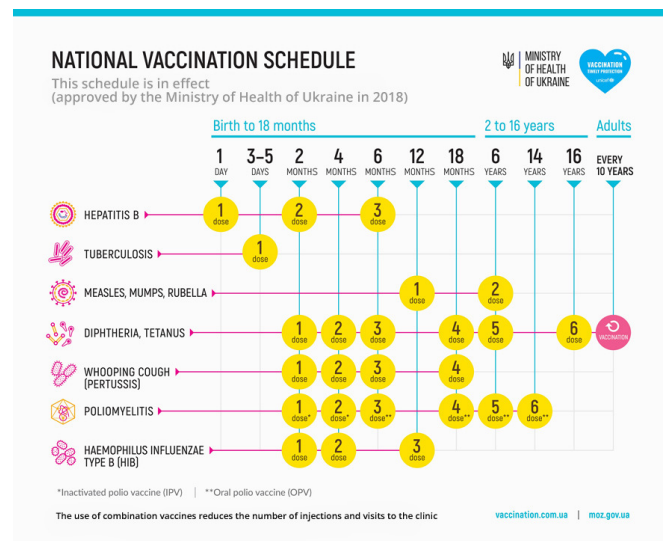
From 12 months of age they are offered MMR and Haemophilus influenzae vaccines

Please note that vaccine uptake in Ukraine is below 90% for most vaccines.



### More information

The immunisation schedule in Ukraine is available [here](#).



## Childhood Immunisation Schedule in Ukraine (continued from page 2)

### Catch-up with Irish schedule

Children who are incompletely vaccinated, should catch up to the Irish schedule as per the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland.



#### More information

The Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland are available [here](#).  
Our toolkit with tips on catch-up vaccination is available [here](#).

### Before 12 months of age

Before 12 months of age, children from Ukraine need MenB, MenC and rotavirus vaccines (rotavirus vaccine given until 8 months and 0 days only) as these vaccines are not part of the immunisation schedule in Ukraine.

They should also receive any other vaccines that they require to catch-up to the Irish schedule.



#### More information

Chapter 2 of the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland is available [here](#).  
Chapter 13 of the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland is available [here](#).

### Men B vaccine

- Children who commence Men B vaccination before 10 months of age need 2 doses of Men B vaccine 2 months apart (the minimum interval of 4 weeks may be used). They need a 3rd dose at  $\geq 12$  months, at least 2 months after their second dose.
- Children who commence MenB vaccination aged 10 months to  $< 2$  years need 2 doses of Men B vaccine 2 months apart.
- Once a child has reached the age of 2, MenB vaccine is no longer recommended unless the child is in an at-risk group

### MenC vaccine

- One dose is needed under 12 months of age.

### Rotavirus vaccine (Rotarix®)

- If an infant is late presenting for rotavirus oral vaccine, they can receive their first dose anytime up to the age of 8 months and 0 days. The dose **MUST** be given before the child is aged 8 months and 0 days. In clinical trials the effectiveness after one dose of vaccine ranged from 51% to 60%.
- If an infant is late presenting for a 1st dose of vaccine but is aged less than 7 months and 0 days, the first dose of rotavirus vaccine can be given. The minimum interval between two doses of rotavirus vaccine (4 weeks) may then be used so that the 2nd dose can be given before 8 months and 0 days.
- **Once an infant is 8 months and 0 days of age, then they should NOT receive any doses of rotavirus oral vaccine.**



#### More information

Frequently Asked Questions are available [here](#).

## Childhood Immunisation Schedule in Ukraine (continued from page 3)

### From 12 months of age

From 12 months of age, children from Ukraine will not have received MenB, PCV13 and MenC vaccines as these vaccines are not part of the Ukrainian schedule.

If a child is 12-23 months of age, MenB vaccine is recommended (2 doses 8 weeks apart), PCV13 (one dose) and MenC (one dose) vaccines are recommended.

Once a child has reached the age of 2 years, MenB and PCV13 vaccines are no longer recommended or required (unless the child is in an at risk group for meningococcal B or pneumococcal disease).

One dose of MenC vaccine is recommended up until the MenACWY vaccine is offered in 1st year of 2nd level school.

The child should also receive other vaccines that they require to catch-up to the Irish schedule.

### Ordering vaccines for catch-up

Catch-up vaccinations can be ordered from the National Cold Chain Service (NCCS).



#### More information

Order catch-up vaccinations from the NCCS [here](#).

### Resources

A toolkit is available from the National Immunisation Office to support GP practices to maximise uptake of childhood immunisation [here](#).

For further information please refer to the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland:

- Catch-up vaccinations [here](#).
- Meningococcal vaccines [here](#).
- Frequently asked questions on Rotavirus vaccine from the National Immunisation Office [here](#).

For further questions regarding catch-up vaccination, please email [immunisation@hse.ie](mailto:immunisation@hse.ie)

Further information regarding prevention and control of infectious diseases in the context of the war in the Ukraine is available [here](#).

Information regarding healthcare services for Ukrainian nationals in Ireland is available [here](#). The web page will be updated regularly, please keep an eye on it.

### COVID-19 vaccination

#### Aged 12 years and older

- COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all individuals aged 12 years and older. Vaccines are available through HSE vaccination clinics, participating pharmacies and GPs. Booster doses are also recommended for this age-group
- Individuals who are immunocompromised at the time of vaccination should receive an additional dose to complete their primary vaccination course. They should then receive a booster dose.

#### Aged 5 to 11 years

Children aged 5-11 years should be offered primary COVID-19 vaccination which is available through HSE vaccination clinics only. If they are immunocompromised at the time of vaccination, an additional dose is also recommended. Booster doses are **NOT** recommended for this age group.



#### More information

See [immunisation.ie](https://www.immunisation.ie) for details.

## COVID-19 vaccination (continued from page 4)

### Which COVID-19 vaccines are used in Ukraine?

All COVID-19 vaccines used in Ukraine are vaccines that have been approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA), or by the World Health Organization (WHO).

**Note that Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose for children aged 5-11 years is not included in the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Ukraine.**

The following vaccines are used in Ukraine:

**Table 1: COVID-19 Vaccines used in Ukraine**

| Vaccine  | Approval |
|--|----------|
| Comirnaty® (Pfizer/BioNtech) 30 micrograms/dose  | EMA      |
| Spikevax® (Moderna)  | EMA      |
| COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen®  | EMA      |
| Vaxzevria® (Oxford/AstraZeneca)  | EMA      |
| Covidshield® (Oxford/AstraZeneca formulation produced by the Serum Institute of India) | WHO      |
| Coronavac® (Sinovac)   | WHO      |

### What is the advice if someone has received a 1st dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine?

Individuals who have partially completed a COVID-19 vaccine course in Ukraine should be offered an EMA authorised COVID-19 vaccine, appropriate for their age group, to complete the series.

If a heterologous schedule is being used (i.e. the second dose is different from the 1st dose), the minimum interval between the last vaccine dose and the EMA authorised COVID-19 vaccine is 28 days.

### What is the advice about the booster dose if someone has received a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine?

If an individual has completed a primary vaccination course in Ukraine (with vaccines as detailed in **Table 1**), they are considered fully vaccinated. They should be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine appropriate for their age group, in accordance with the recommended intervals for booster doses for their age-group.

### What is the advice about the additional dose if someone who is immunocompromised has received a primary course of COVID-19 vaccine in Ukraine?

If an individual has had a primary vaccination course in Ukraine (with vaccines as detailed in **Table 1**) should be offered an additional dose appropriate for their age-group, in accordance with the recommended intervals for the additional dose for their age group.



#### More information

Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 vaccination outside Ireland is available [here](#). See [immunisation.ie](http://immunisation.ie) for further details.

# COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 46

## Website

Visit our website [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie) regularly for the most up to date information to support vaccinators and health professionals responding to queries.

Our dedicated COVID-19 Vaccination section contains

- Information from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee
- Clinical guidelines
- COVID-19 vaccine studies
- IM injection technique reminders
- Dedicated pages for the licensed COVID-19 vaccines

[Visit here](#)

## HSeLanD COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme

You can access updates to the National Immunisation Office COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme for

- Children 5 to 11
- Pfizer,
- Moderna, and
- Janssen vaccine

through your HSeLanD account.

We would encourage you to log in and complete the updated content in each programme to refresh your knowledge and ensure you are up to date with your COVID-19 Vaccination Training.

[Visit HSeLanD](#)

If you have any issues with the platform please contact HSeLanD directly.

[Contact HSeLanD](#)

## Do you have queries?

Clinical queries from healthcare professionals can be directed to our HSE email address.

[Send your query](#)

Should vaccines be exposed to temperatures outside of parameters please contact the National Immunisation Office pharmacists immediately. Contacts include:

- Mariangela Toma: mobile 087 7575679
- Cliona Kiersey: mobile 087 9915452
- Achal Gupta: mobile 087 4064810

**The National Immunisation Office is not involved in the allocation or delivery of COVID-19 Vaccines.**

**Queries that are not clinical or technical cannot be answered by the National Immunisation Office**

Read about the role of the National Immunisation Office in supporting the COVID-19 vaccination programme on our [website](#).

Recommendations about COVID-19 vaccine are changing as more information becomes available so please visit our [website](#) for the most up to date information.