

Recommendations from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) regarding second Booster COVID-19 vaccination

To maintain high levels of immunity in those most at risk of severe disease and prevent severe breakthrough infection, hospitalisation and death from Covid-19 the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) is now recommending a second booster dose of an mRNA vaccine for the following groups.

- All those aged 65 years and older (a 4th COVID-19 vaccine dose)
- All those aged 12 or older with immunocompromise associated with suboptimal response to vaccines, at the time of primary or booster vaccination (a 5th COVID-19 vaccine dose).

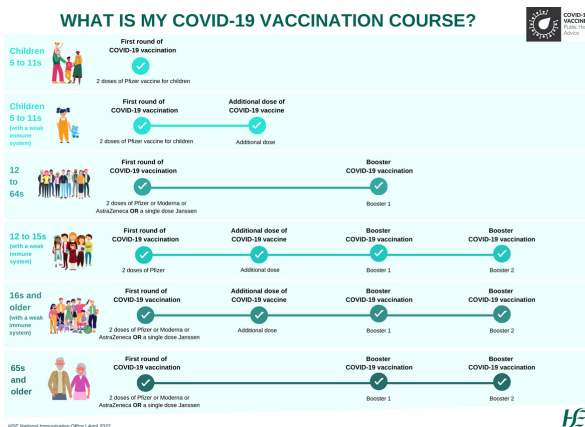
Immunocompromising conditions or treatment associated with a sub-optimal response to vaccination are outlined in the **BLUE SHADED** areas in **Table 5a.2 of the Immunisation Guidelines from NIAC**.

- People who are 30 years or older are recommended a single dose of the Comirnaty®/Pfizer BioNTech or Spikevax®/Moderna vaccine. The booster dose for Spikevax®/Moderna vaccine is **0.25mls**
- People aged 12-29 years inclusive are recommended Comirnaty®/Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, and not Spikevax®/Moderna vaccine.

NIAC advises a second booster vaccine is recommended at least six months after the first booster.

NIAC also advises a minimum interval of four months may be used for operational reasons.

Following NIAC Guidance the HSE is operationalising the 2nd COVID-19 vaccine booster dose from at least 4 months after the 1st COVID-19 vaccine booster dose.



Download our COVID-19 vaccination journey infographics [here](#).

Do you need to leave an interval between COVID-19 infection and vaccination with a non-COVID-19 vaccine (e.g. the vaccines given in the schools immunisation programme)?

After COVID-19 infection, vaccines can be administered from when the person finishes the recommended period of isolation. The exception to this is COVID-19 vaccines (information about intervals between COVID-19 disease and a COVID-19 vaccine is available from the Quick Reference Guide). If the vaccinee has an acute febrile illness, the vaccination should be delayed until recovery.

**Read more [here](#).
Check our Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 Vaccines [here](#).**

Using Spikevax® / Moderna vaccine as a 2nd booster dose

A reminder of key information information about Spikevax® / Moderna for booster vaccination is in the Table below:

Title	Description
Name of vaccine	Spikevax® (Moderna)
Volume per booster dose	0.25mls for a booster dose
Dilution	<u>Not required</u>
Number of booster doses in each vial	<u>20 booster doses per vial</u> (10 doses for primary course) As per SmPC the bung must not be punctured more than 20 times
Interval between 2 nd booster and 1 st booster COVID-19 vaccine	At least 4 months
Interval between COVID-19 infection and 2 nd booster dose	At least 4 months
List of excipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lipid SM-102 Cholesterol • 1,2-distearoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DSPC) 1,2-Dimyristoyl-rac-glycero-3-methoxypolyethylene glycol-2000 (PEG2000 DMG) • Tromethamol • Tromethamol hydrochloride Acetic acid • Sodium acetate trihydrate Sucrose • Water for injections
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaphylaxis following a previous dose of the vaccine or any of its constituents (including polyethylene glycol (PEG) and trometamol). • Anaphylaxis following another mRNA vaccine. • Previous history of myocarditis after a dose of an mRNA vaccine
Precautions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acute severe febrile illness; defer until recovery. • Previous history of pericarditis after a dose of an mRNA vaccine - seek specialist advice • Consider non-mRNA vaccination for those aged 18 years or older, including pregnant women, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaphylaxis after multiple, different drug classes, with no identified allergen (may indicate PEG allergy) • Anaphylaxis after a vaccine or a medicine which contained PEG • Unexplained anaphylaxis (may indicate PEG allergy)

Using Spikevax® / Moderna vaccine as a 2nd booster dose (cont. from page 2)

Storage of Spikevax®

	Method of Vaccine Storage	Temperature	Duration
Unopened vials	Refrigerator	Between +2°C and +8°C	“use before” date as labelled by NCCS
Punctured vials	Refrigerator or Room Temperature	Between +2°C and +25°C	Up to 19 hours (until “discard date and time”)



See Clinical Guidance [here](#).
See SmPC [here](#).

COVID-19 vaccine research

Association of SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination during Pregnancy With Pregnancy Outcomes



Another study supporting the safety of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy has been published.

The findings of a population-based retrospective cohort study that included 157 521 deliveries in Sweden and Norway, SARS-CoV-2 vaccination during pregnancy, compared with no SARS-CoV-2 vaccination during pregnancy, was not significantly associated with risk of preterm birth (adjusted hazard ratio, 0.98), stillbirth (adjusted hazard ratio, 0.86), small for gestational age (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 0.97), low Apgar score (adjusted odds ratio, 0.97), or neonatal care admission (adjusted odds ratio, 0.97).

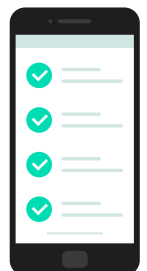
In this population-based study conducted in Sweden and Norway, vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 during pregnancy was not associated with an increased risk of adverse pregnancy outcomes. The majority of the vaccinations were with mRNA vaccines during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy.



Read more [here](#).

NIO Social Media Questionnaire 2022

We are taking a fresh look at our social media channels to see how best we can support the national immunisation programmes and all who deliver them. We invite you to complete this short anonymous survey with 6 questions (approx. 2 minutes) on your social media usage and how the NIO social channels might in turn support your work on the National Immunisation Programmes.



Take the survey [here](#).

Website

Visit our website www.immunisation.ie regularly for the most up to date information to support vaccinators and health professionals responding to queries.

 Visit website [here](http://www.immunisation.ie).

HSeLanD Vaccination Training Programme

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,
- Janssen, and
- Nuvaxovid 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.

Other immunisation training programmes

You will also find other programmes developed by our office by logging into your account on www.hseland.ie selecting **courses** then selecting **clinical skills** and finally selecting **National Immunisation Office**.

Our programmes cover topics like “Communicating about vaccines”, “HPV vaccine”, the “Flu vaccine”, “LAIV flu vaccine” and “vaccines in pregnancy” and “Storing and Managing Vaccines”.

 Visit HSeLanD [here](http://www.hseland.ie).

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

 Contact HSeLand [here](http://www.hseland.ie).

Do you have queries?

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

 Send your query [here](mailto:clinical_queries@immunisation.ie).

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

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

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