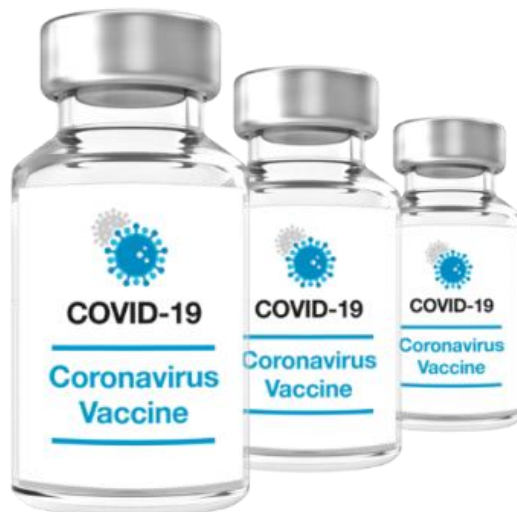


COVID-19 Vaccines

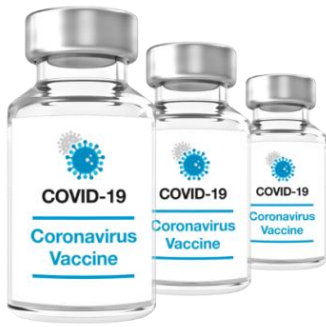
A guide to COVID-19 vaccines for people aged 16 and over

Easy to Read Guide

Version 5
September 2023



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



This booklet is a guide to COVID-19 vaccines.



There are separate information booklets about the Pfizer vaccine for children aged 5 to 11 and 12 to 15 years.



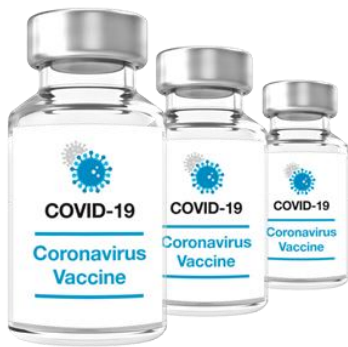
This information will support you to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines.



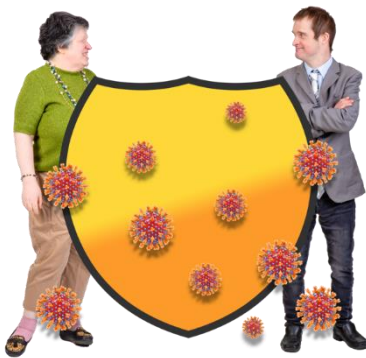
It will help you to make a decision about having a vaccine.



What is the COVID-19 vaccine?



COVID-19 vaccines help your body to protect you from COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccines will cut your risk of getting COVID-19.



COVID-19 vaccines will cut your risk of getting a serious illness.



The HSE is giving COVID-19 vaccines to people in Ireland to protect them.



This will keep down the number of deaths.



Since the vaccines started, there have been less people with serious illness from COVID-19 in Ireland.

3

There are 3 main COVID-19 vaccines in Ireland:



1. COVID-19 vaccine Pfizer – also called Comirnaty



2. COVID-19 vaccine VidPrevtyn Beta



3. COVID-19 vaccine Novavax - also called Nuvaxovid.

AstraZeneca 

Janssen
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF
Johnson & Johnson 

moderna 

In Ireland, the COVID-19 vaccines called AstraZeneca, Janssen, and Moderna are not used anymore.

You can find information about these vaccines on the HSE website.



There is an Easy to Read information leaflet on each of the main COVID-19 vaccines.

These are on the HSE website.



These information leaflets will tell you about the vaccine.



The leaflets will tell you who should not get the vaccine.



The leaflets tell you what to expect after your vaccine and list the possible side effects.



It is your choice to get the vaccine or not.



The HSE only uses vaccines that meet safety standards.

All the COVID-19 vaccines have had safety checks.



In Ireland, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee gives advice on vaccines to the Department of Health. The HSE puts this advice into action.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

The European Medicines Agency checks the safety and also gives advice on the vaccines.



COVID-19 vaccines are still quite new.

We do not have much information on the long-term side effects yet.

We have less information on the safety of second and more booster doses.



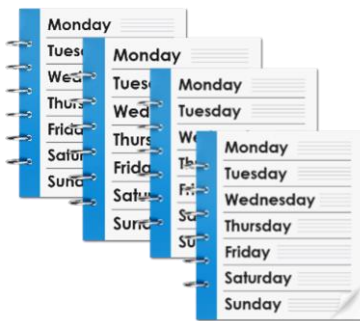
What do we mean when we talk about vaccines?



A primary course

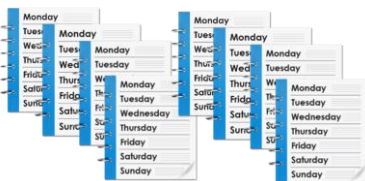
This is for all people aged 12 years and older.

It is your first or second dose of the vaccine.



The doses will be 4 weeks apart for people aged 30 and older.

The doses will be 4 weeks apart for people aged 12 to 29 with a weak immune system.



The doses will be 8 weeks apart for people aged 12 to 29.



Additional dose

This is given to people with a weak immune system.



Booster dose

Boosters give you more protection from COVID-19 and help protect others too.



All adults aged 18 or older should get at least one booster dose.



You should get an autumn booster if you are:

- 50 or older
- 5 or older with a weak immune system
- 5 to 49 with a condition that means you could get very ill from COVID-19.



You will be offered an autumn booster if you are a healthcare worker.



People aged 18 to 49, and up to date with their vaccines, can talk to a healthcare professional about an autumn booster.



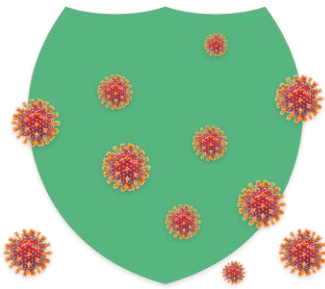
You can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine.



Recommended COVID-19 vaccines for your age group



All COVID-19 vaccines give you good protection from serious illness with COVID-19.



The vaccines give you good protection when you have:

- your first round of vaccines
- and
- any extra or booster doses you need.



You will be offered a vaccine that suits your age.



If you are aged 5 and over, you will be offered the Pfizer vaccine for COVID-19.



The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is an mRNA vaccine.

You can find out more at www.hse.ie.



Some people cannot have an mRNA vaccine.



If you cannot have an mRNA vaccine, you may be offered a Novavax vaccine.



Sometimes, you might be offered the VidPrevtyn Beta vaccine.



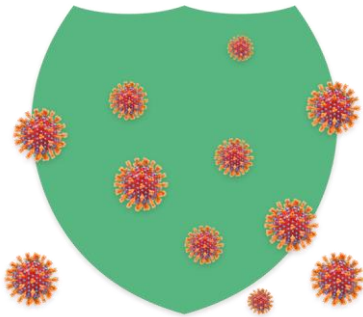
Novavax is for people aged 12 and over.

VidPrevtyn Beta is a booster vaccine for people aged 18.

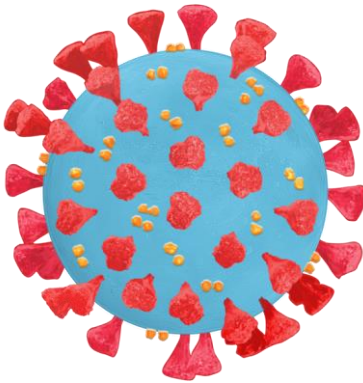


The National Immunisation Advisory Committee said you can get a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine as a booster dose.

You can do this even if you had a different vaccine before.



There are mRNA vaccines which have been changed to be given as booster doses.



These booster vaccines protect you better against different types of COVID-19 called variants.



One of these changed vaccines can be given as a booster or as your first vaccine.



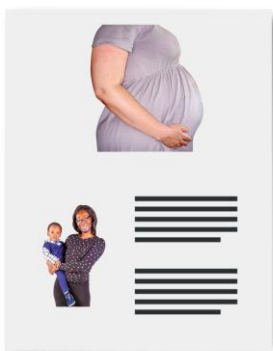
You should get a COVID-19 vaccine if you are pregnant, trying for a baby, might get pregnant, or breastfeeding.



Most pregnant people that get the virus do not get very ill.
They give birth as planned and the risk of passing COVID-19 to their baby is low.



However, if you are pregnant, there is more chance you could get a serious illness and need treatment in hospital.



Please read our leaflet on pregnancy and COVID-19 vaccines for more information.



What can I expect after a COVID-19 vaccine?



COVID-19 vaccines can cause side effects. Most of these are mild and do not last long. Not everyone gets them.



You can read more about the side effects of each COVID-19 vaccine at www.hse.ie



What should I do if I get a fever or pains after the COVID-19 vaccine?



If you have a fever or aches and pains, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen to help.



If this lasts for more than 2 days, or if you are worried, you should talk to your doctor.



If I get side effects of a COVID-19 vaccine, who should I tell?



If you get side effects after you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you can report this to your GP or nurse.



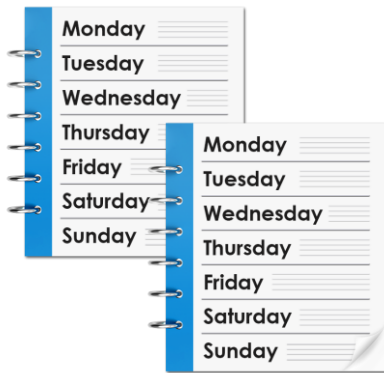
All side effects can be reported to the Health Products Regulatory Products by you.
You can find out more at www.hpra.ie/report



Your doctor or nurse can make a report for you.



How long does it take for the COVID-19 vaccines to work?



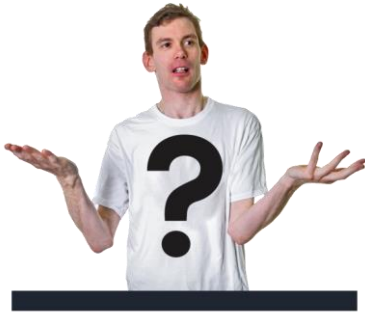
It takes up to 14 days for your COVID-19 vaccine to give you full protection.



It is still very important to follow public health guidelines on protecting yourself and others.



You can find this information as www.hse.ie



How will my personal information be used?



We need to get some personal information from you to make sure we give the COVID-19 vaccine to you in the right way.



The HSE have to protect your information and keep it private.

This is called General Data Protection Regulation.

You can find out more here:

www.hse.ie/eng/gdpr



Where can I get more information about the COVID-19 vaccine?



You can get more information and find out when your next vaccine is due.

You can get information online at

www.hse.ie/COVID19Vaccinematerials



You can read the patient information leaflet for all the vaccines here:

www.hse.ie/COVID19VaccinePIL



You can phone the HSE Live helpline.

The number is 1800 700 700.

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