



COVID-19 vaccine

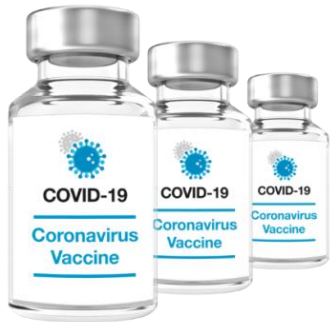
Important information about the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 5-11

Easy Read guide

Version 6
September 2023



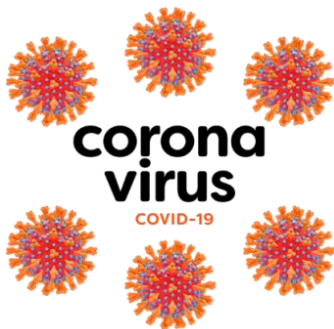
About this leaflet



This leaflet is about a COVID-19 vaccine called Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech.



This vaccine is for children aged 5-11 years.

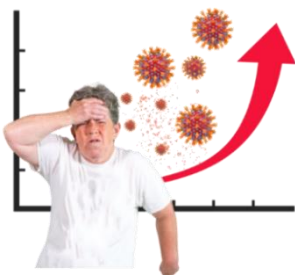


This leaflet will tell you what COVID-19 is.

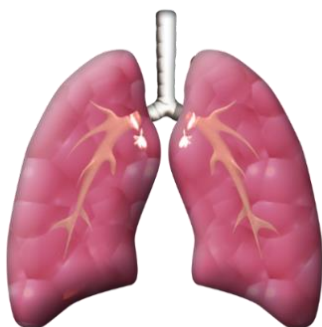


This leaflet will tell you why your child is being offered the COVID-19 vaccine.

What is COVID-19?



COVID-19 is a sickness that has spread around the world.



COVID-19 affects your lungs.
It is a very serious sickness.



COVID-19 can make it hard for you to breathe.



If you have COVID-19, you may:

- feel hot and have a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- have chills
- have a dry cough
- feel tired.



If you have COVID-19, you may feel like you have the flu or a cold.



It can take 2 weeks before you show signs of COVID-19.

These signs are called symptoms.



If you have any symptoms, you will need to self-isolate.

This means staying at home, away from other people, until 48 hours after you feel better.

48 hours is 2 days.



You should check to see if you need a COVID-19 test.

You can get more information at www.hse.ie



You can telephone the HSE live helpline.

The number is 1800 700 700.

COVID-19 and children aged 5-11



Most children who get COVID-19 have very mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.



If your child has COVID-19, they have to stay home from school.



It is very rare that children and young people end up in hospital with COVID-19.

Most children will not need intensive care treatment. The risk is very low.



Sometimes, COVID-19 symptoms can last for weeks or months.

This is known as long COVID.

The risk of long COVID is lower in children than in adults.

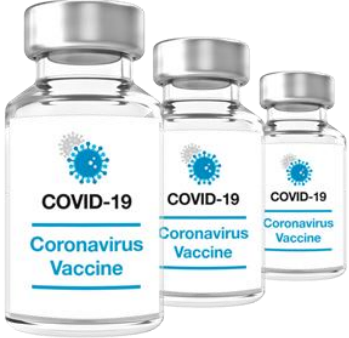
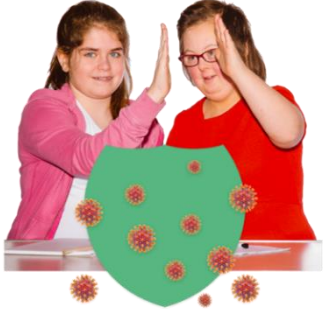


Children with certain health conditions are at more risk and could get very sick if they get COVID-19.


Very rarely, COVID-19 may give you a serious illness that causes problems with many organs of the body.

A small number of children can die from this illness.

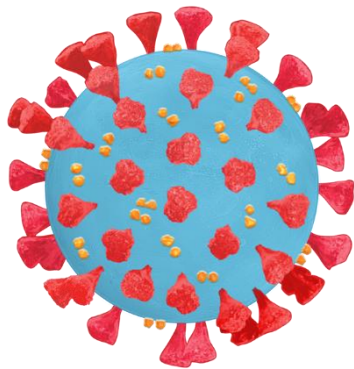
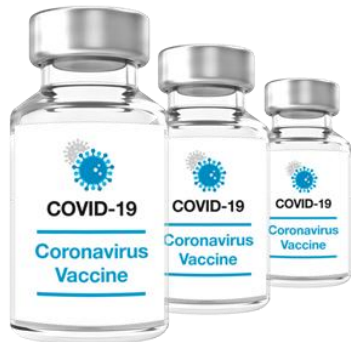
What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

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|  Three glass vials of COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine. The largest vial on the left is labeled 'COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine'. The two smaller vials on the right are labeled 'COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine'. | <p>The COVID-19 vaccine helps your body to protect you from COVID-19.</p> |
|  Two children, a girl in a pink shirt and a boy in a red shirt, are holding a large green shield. The shield is decorated with several red and white COVID-19 virus particles. The children are standing behind a desk. | <p>The vaccine will help your child's body make antibodies.</p> <p>Antibodies can help you to fight COVID-19.</p> |

Does the COVID-19 vaccine work for children aged 5-11?

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|---|--|
|  Two children, a girl in an orange sweater and a boy in a red shirt, are giving a thumbs up. They are standing next to a large glass vial of COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine. The vial is labeled 'COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine'. | <p>The COVID-19 vaccine works well at stopping COVID-19 in children aged 5-11.</p> |
|---|--|

What vaccine is my child being offered?







Your child is being offered a COVID-19 vaccine called Comirnaty.

It is made by a company called Pfizer/BioNTech.





The vaccine your child has been offered is an mRNA vaccine.

The vaccine has been changed to protect your child better against different types of COVID-19, called variants.

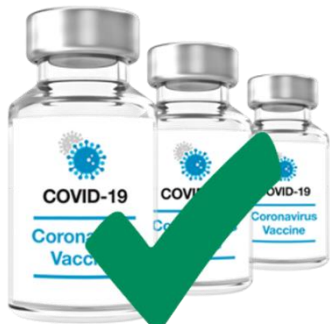
Consent for your child to be vaccinated

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|  | <p>Before a child gets the vaccine, a parent or legal guardian will be asked to give their consent.</p> |
|  | <p>Giving consent means you agree to your child getting this COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>You can say yes, or you can say no.</p> <p>The choice is yours.</p> |
|  | <p>Your child will not be allowed to attend their COVID-19 vaccine appointment on their own.</p> |
|  | <p>You can read about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in the patient information leaflet.</p> <p>You should do this before you give consent for your child to get the COVID-19 vaccine.</p> |

Why is the COVID-19 vaccine being offered to all children aged 5-11?

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|  | <p>The COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to all children, aged 5-11.</p> <p>This is to help protect them and the people around them from COVID-19.</p> |
|  | <p>People are less likely to become very ill with COVID-19 if they have their COVID-19 vaccine.</p> |
|  | <p>The COVID-19 vaccines are strongly recommended for children who have a health condition.</p> |
|  | <p>The COVID-19 vaccines are strongly recommended for children that live with someone that could get very ill if they get COVID-19.</p> |

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children aged 5-11?

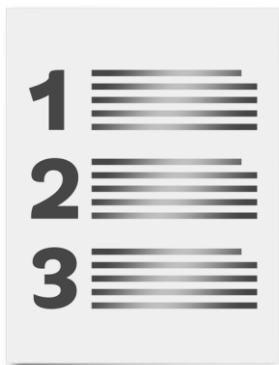


This COVID-19 vaccine has been tested by scientists to see if it is safe.

A scientist is a person who tries to understand how our world works.



The COVID-19 vaccine has already been given to millions of children aged 5 to 11 years across the world.



In Ireland, the National Immunisation Advisory Committee gives advice on COVID-19 vaccines.

This Committee agreed the plan for COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 5 to 11 years of age.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

The European Medicines Agency said this COVID-19 vaccine is safe to use in Ireland.

You can find out more here:

www.ema.europa.eu

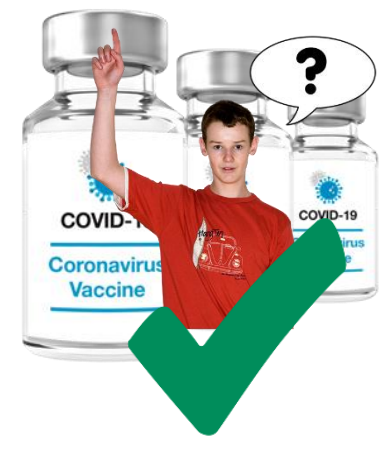


We have less information about the safety of third doses of the COVID-19 vaccine or the booster doses.



You should talk to your child's GP, nurse, or vaccinator if you have any questions about the safety of this vaccine.

My child already had COVID-19. Can they get the COVID-19 vaccine?




Yes.

Your child can get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have had COVID-19 already.

The vaccine will cut down the risk of getting COVID-19 infection again.

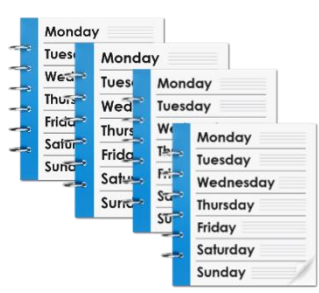
My child has COVID-19 now. Can they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

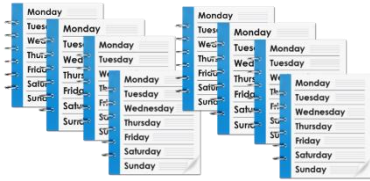


Your child should not get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have COVID-19 now.

If your child is due to have their first dose of the vaccine, they should wait until

- 4 weeks after they first got symptoms or
- 4 weeks after they tested positive for COVID-19.





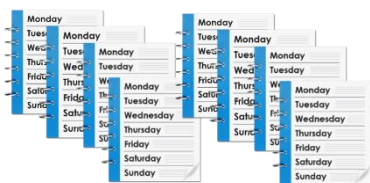
If your child is due to have their second dose of the vaccine, they should wait until

- 8 weeks after they first got symptoms, or
- 8 weeks after they tested positive for COVID-19.



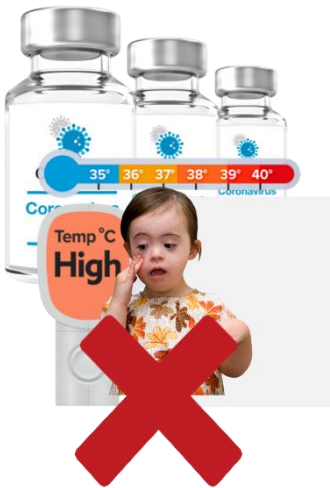
If your child has a weak immune system and had COVID-19 after their second vaccine:

- They do not need an extra dose if they had COVID-19 more than 7 days after their second vaccine.
- They can get a booster 4 months after they had COVID-19.




If your child gets COVID-19 within 7 days of getting their second vaccine, they should get their extra dose 4 to 8 weeks after they had COVID-19.

Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have a high temperature?

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|  | <p>No.</p> <p>Your child should not get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have a high temperature.</p> <p>They can get the COVID-19 vaccine when they are feeling better and do not have a temperature.</p> |
|---|--|

My child had the mpox vaccine recently. Can they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

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|  | <p>No.</p> <p>Mpox is a different illness.</p> <p>If your child had the mpox vaccine recently, they need to wait 4 weeks before they get their COVID-19 vaccine.</p> <p>This is because there may be a risk of a heart problem called Myocarditis.</p> |
|---|--|

Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

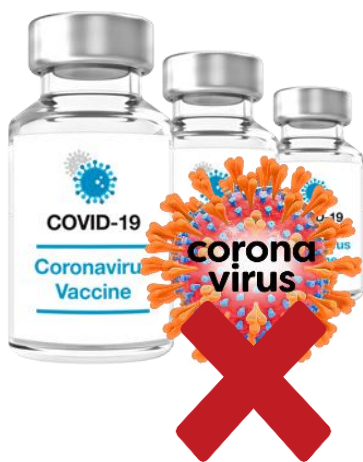


Yes.

Your child can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as any other vaccine except mpox vaccine.

This includes their nasal spray flu vaccine and any vaccines they get in school.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine give my child COVID-19?



No.

The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give your child COVID-19.

They may catch COVID-19 before getting their vaccine.

They may not know they have the symptoms until after they get the vaccine.



If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 after they get the vaccine, they will need to self-isolate.

This means staying at home until 48 hours after they feel better.

48 hours is 2 days.





You should do this if they get a high temperature more than 2 days after they get the COVID-19 vaccine.






You can check www.hse.ie to see if they need a COVID-19 test.

Who will give my child their COVID-19 vaccine?

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|---|---|
|  <p>The image shows five diverse healthcare professionals (three women and two men) standing in a row. They are dressed in professional attire, including white lab coats and blue scrubs. In front of them is a white rectangular sign with the word "Vaccinators" written in black text.</p> | <p>The person that gives your child their COVID-19 vaccine is called a vaccinator.</p> <p>Vaccinators are trained by the HSE to give COVID-19 vaccines.</p> |
|  <p>The image shows a woman with long brown hair, wearing a light blue t-shirt with the word "Dandelions" printed on it. She has her hands raised in a questioning gesture. To her right is a large, bold blue question mark.</p> | <p>The vaccinator will answer any questions you have.</p> |

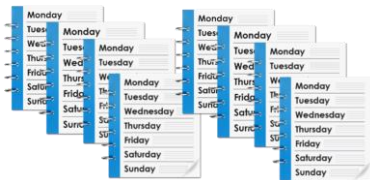
How will the COVID-19 vaccine be given to my child?

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|  | <p>The COVID-19 vaccine is given to your child as an injection.</p> |
|  | <p>The injection is given in your child's upper arm.</p> |
|  | <p>You will be given an advice leaflet and a vaccine record card.</p> <p>This will give you information about the COVID-19 vaccine that your child was given.</p> |

How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will my child need?



Your child will need 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Your child will get the second dose of the vaccine 8 weeks after their first dose.



If your child has a weak immune system, they will get their second vaccine 4 weeks after their first dose.



If your child has a weak immune system, they may need an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

This will be given to them 8 weeks after their second vaccine.



If your child has a weak immune system, they can get a booster vaccine 4 months after their extra dose.



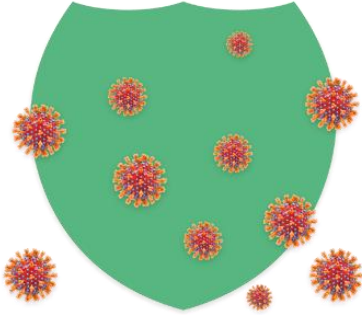
Children with a weak immune system, who have had an extra dose and a booster dose, should get an autumn booster dose.

These should be given 6 months after a booster dose or COVID-19 infection.



Children with a medical condition that means they could get very sick from COVID-19, should get an autumn booster.

They can get this booster 9 months after their last COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 infection.



Children with medical conditions or a weak immune system are being offered booster doses because:

- the protection from the vaccine may get weaker over time
- your child might be at more risk of getting very ill from COVID-19
- your child's immune system does not respond as strongly to the vaccine.

What are the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?



Some people get side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine.



Some of the side effects are:

- soreness, swelling, redness, or itching where your child had their injection
- swollen lymph glands
- sore knees, elbows, or other joints
- pain in the arm where you got the vaccine
- sore muscles
- sore head
- feeling sick or getting sick
- Diarrhoea
- not feeling hungry
- feeling tired, having no energy, or feeling weak



- chills or fever - a high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- feeling itchy or having a rash
- finding it hard to sleep
- sweating a lot or night sweats
- dizziness
- feeling unwell.



Some people get other side effects.
These do not happen often.

Rarely people may have:

- weakness in the muscles on one side of your face
- allergic reaction that can cause hives or swelling of the face.



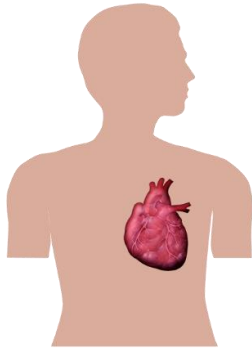
It is extremely rare for someone to have a severe allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Your vaccinator is trained to treat you if you have a serious allergic reaction.



Extremely rarely, a person may have:

- a skin reaction that causes red spots or patches - this looks like a bulls-eye
- a lot of swelling of the arm or leg where you got your vaccine
- tingling or prickling sensation, or loss of sensation in some part of the body
- swelling in your face - this can happen to people who have had injections, called cosmetic fillers, on their face
- heavy periods.



Very rarely, a person may get a problem with their heart or lining of their heart after getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

This is called Myocarditis or Pericarditis.

This happens more in young men.

This can happen within 2 weeks of getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

It is seen more after getting the second dose.

The risk of these side effects seems to be lower after the first booster.

The symptoms of Myocarditis and Pericarditis are:

- being out of breath
- fast heartbeat
- chest pain.

Contact your doctor straight away if your child has any of these symptoms.

Myocarditis in children aged 5 to 11 years is very rare.

What if my child gets a high temperature after they get the COVID-19 vaccine?



If your child gets a high temperature after the Pfizer vaccine, it normally goes away in 2 days.

If they feel uncomfortable, you can give them Paracetamol or Ibruprofen.

Follow the instructions on the box or leaflet for your child.

If you are worried about your child talk to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

If my child gets side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine who should I tell?



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

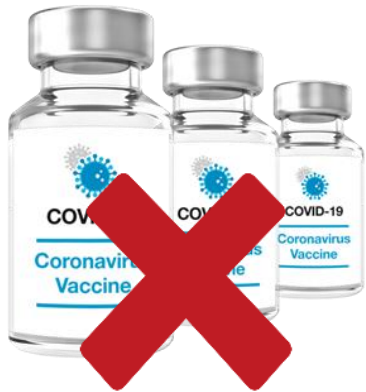
All side effects can be reported to the Health Products Regulatory Authority by you.

You can find out more here:

www.hpra.ie/report

Your doctor or nurse can make a report for you too.

Some children should not get the COVID-19 vaccine



Your child should not get this COVID-19 vaccine if they have had a bad reaction to any of the ingredients.

This includes an ingredient called polyethylene glycol.

You can find out about the ingredients here:

www.hse.ie/COVID19VaccinePIL



If your child had a bad reaction to any vaccine or medication before, talk to your doctor before they get this vaccine



Your child should not get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have had a severe allergic reaction to Trometamol.

This is a dye used in MRI studies.



Your child should not get the COVID-19 vaccine if they had a bad reaction to the first dose of this COVID-19 vaccine.



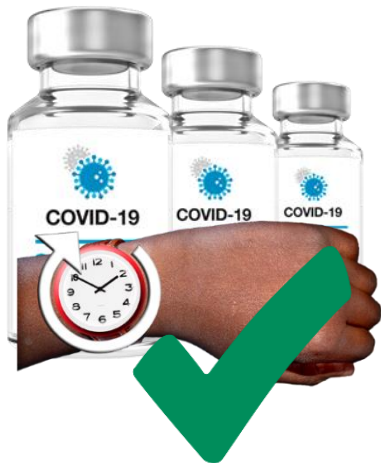
Before getting this vaccine talk to your doctor if your child had Myocarditis or Pericarditis after a COVID-19 vaccine.



If your child has had an illness before called Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome, they can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

- They can get the COVID-19 vaccine once they are better or
- It is at least 90 days since they were told they had this illness, whichever is longer.

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



This COVID-19 vaccine works 7 days after your child gets their second dose of Pfizer vaccine.

Most people who get this COVID-19 vaccine will have immunity and be protected from COVID-19.

Your child may still get COVID-19 after they get this COVID-19 vaccine, but their symptoms may not be as bad.

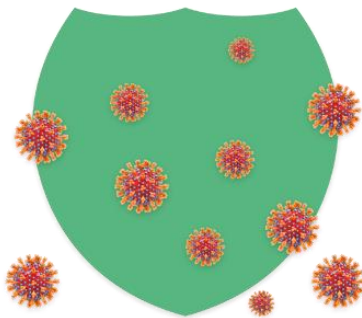
Does the COVID-19 vaccine work for everyone?



Scientists said this COVID-19 vaccine works for most people who get it.

Millions of people all over the world have had a COVID-19 vaccine.

This has helped to stop them from getting COVID-19.



It has helped to stop the spread of COVID-19.

It has helped to stop people from getting very sick from COVID-19.


It has cut down the number of people dying from COVID-19.





If your child has a weak immune system, the COVID-19 vaccine may not work as well for them.

There are no extra risks to them if they get the vaccine.

How long will my child be protected from COVID-19 after they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

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|  | <p>We do not know how long your child will be protected from COVID-19 after they get the Pfizer vaccine.</p> <p>Scientists are still trying to find this out.</p> |
|---|---|

Can my child spread COVID-19 to other people after they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>We do not know yet if your child can still spread COVID-19 after they get the Pfizer vaccine.</p> |
|  <p>Hands</p> <p>Face</p> <p>Space</p> | <p>It is still very important to follow public health guidelines for people who have had their vaccine.</p> |

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



You can get more information online at www.hse.ie/COVID19Vaccinematerials

You can read the patient information leaflet here: www.hse.ie/COVID19VaccinePIL



You can phone the HSE Live helpline.
The number is 1800 700 700.

How will my child's personal information be used?



We need to get some personal information from you to make sure we give the vaccine to your child 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

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This leaflet will be updated as new information becomes available.

For the latest information on this COVID-19 vaccine, go to [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)