

COVID-19 vaccine

**Important information about the
Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech
COVID-19 vaccine for children
aged 6 months to 4 years.**

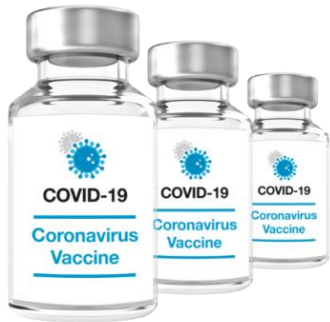
Easy Read guide

Version 2
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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

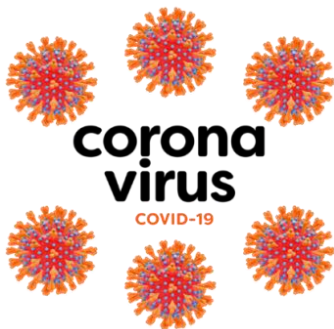
About this leaflet



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



This vaccine is for children aged 6 months to 4 years.



This leaflet will tell you about COVID-19 in children aged 6 months to 4 years.



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

About this leaflet



Please read this leaflet carefully.



We have a comic strip called 'Getting my COVID-19 vaccine'.

You can read this with your child.

Use this QR code to get the comic strip.



You can get more information on www.hse.ie

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 your child has COVID-19, they may feel like they have the flu or a cold.



It can take 2 weeks before your child shows signs of COVID-19.

These signs are called symptoms.



If your child has any symptoms, they need to stay at home away from other people.

They should stay at home until 48 hours after they feel better.

48 hours is 2 days.



You should check to see if they 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 6 months to 4 years



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.



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

The risk is a bit higher in children from 6 months to 4 years than in older children.

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.



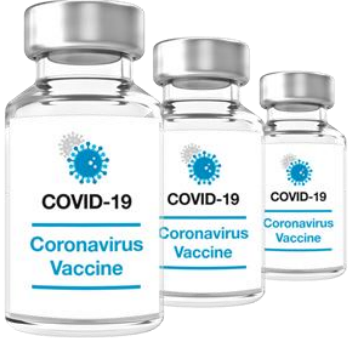
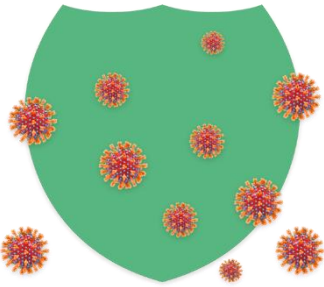
Children with certain health conditions are at more risk.

They could get very sick if they get COVID-19.

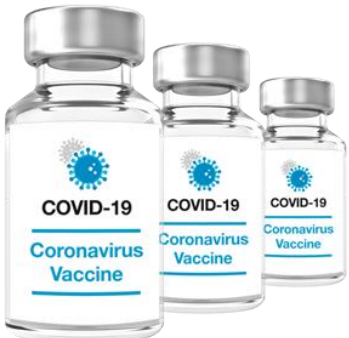
Very rarely, COVID-19 may give you a serious illness that causes problems with many organs of the body.

A small number of children can die from this illness.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

 Three glass vials of COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine. Each vial has a white label with a blue coronavirus icon at the top, followed by the text 'COVID-19' and 'Coronavirus Vaccine' in blue. The vials are arranged in a row, with the largest on the left and the smallest on the right.	<p>The COVID-19 vaccine helps your body to protect you from COVID-19.</p>
 A green shield with several red coronavirus particles. The shield is a simple green shape with a white border. Inside the shield, there are several red coronavirus particles, each with a white crown-like structure and a red base. The particles are scattered across the shield, with some overlapping the edges.	<p>The vaccine will help your child's body make antibodies.</p> <p>Antibodies can help you to fight COVID-19.</p>

What vaccine is my child being offered?

 Three glass vials of COVID-19 Coronavirus Vaccine. Each vial has a white label with a blue coronavirus icon at the top, followed by the text 'COVID-19' and 'Coronavirus Vaccine' in blue. The vials are arranged in a row, with the largest on the left and the smallest on the right.	<p>Your child is being offered a COVID-19 vaccine called Comirnaty.</p> <p>It is made by a company called Pfizer/BioNTech.</p>
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Consent for your child to be vaccinated



Before a child gets the vaccine, a parent or legal guardian will be asked to give their consent.



Giving consent means you agree to your child getting this COVID-19 vaccine.

You can say yes, or you can say no.

The choice is yours.



You can read about the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine in the patient information leaflet.

You should do this before you give consent for your child to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Why is the COVID-19 vaccine being offered to all children aged 6 months to 4 years?



The COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to all children aged 6 months to 4 years.

This includes children that live with someone that could get very ill if they get COVID-19.

This is to help protect them and the people around them from COVID-19.




People are less likely to become very ill with COVID-19 if they have their COVID-19 vaccine.

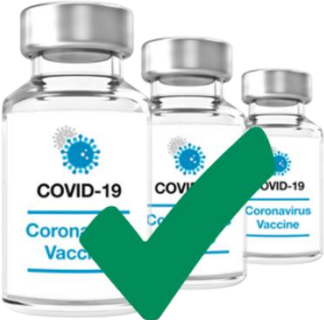



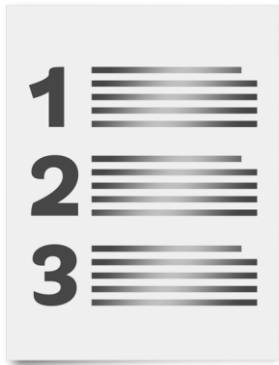
The COVID-19 vaccines are strongly recommended for children aged 6 months to 4 years that have a health condition.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine work for children aged 6 months to 4 years?

	<p>The COVID-19 vaccine works well at stopping COVID-19 in children aged 6 months to 4 years.</p> <p>Children at this age must get three doses of the vaccine.</p>
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Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe for children aged 6 months to 4 years?

	<p>This COVID-19 vaccine has been tested by scientists to see if it is safe.</p> <p>A scientist is a person who tries to understand how our world works.</p>
	<p>It has been tested on over 3 thousand children aged 6 months to 4 years.</p>



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 6 months to 4 years.



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 are still collecting information and still learning about using the vaccine in young children.



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.

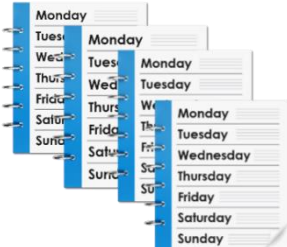
My child has COVID-19 now. Can they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

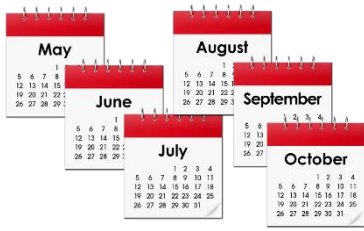


Your child should not get the COVID-19 vaccine if they have COVID-19 now.

If your child is due to have their first or second 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.



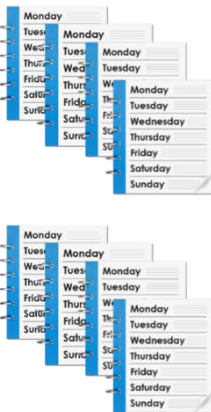


After infection, the vaccine works best if you wait for 6 months before you give the first dose.



If your child has COVID-19 and their third vaccine dose is due, they do not need another dose if:

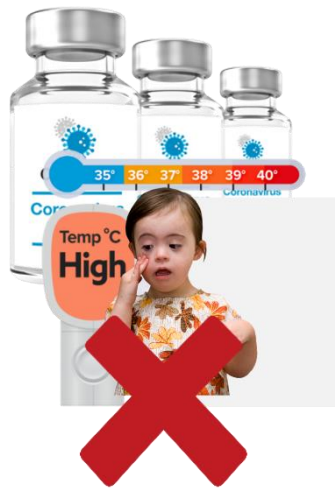
- they had COVID-19 more than 7 days after their second dose.



If your child had COVID-19 within 7 days of their second dose, they should get a third dose.

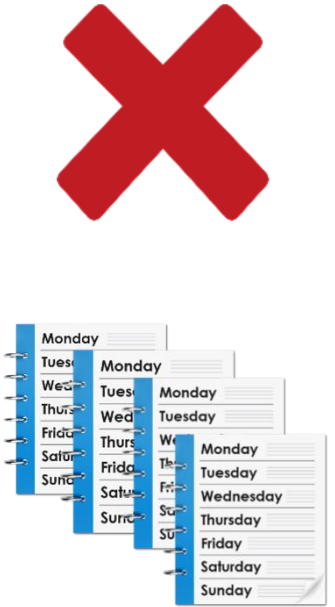
They can get this dose 8 weeks after they first got symptoms of COVID-19 or tested positive for COVID-19.

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

	<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>
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My child had the mpox (Monkeypox) vaccine recently.

Can they get the COVID-19 vaccine?

	<p>No.</p> <p>Mpox (Monkeypox) is a different illness.</p> <p>If your child had the mpox/monkeypox 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>
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Can my child get the COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?

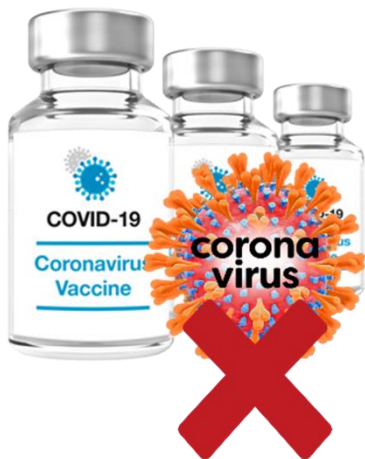


No.

There should be at least 14 days between COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines.

Early childhood vaccines should be done before COVID-19 vaccines.

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.

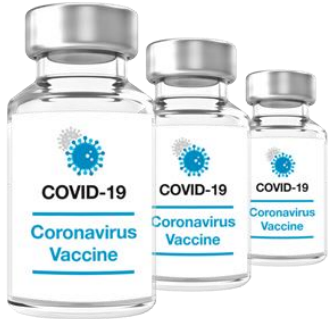
Who will give my child their COVID-19 vaccine?

 <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 outstretched in a questioning gesture. To her right is a large, blue question mark.</p>	<p>The vaccinator will answer any questions you have.</p>

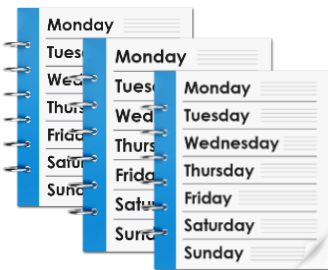
How will the COVID-19 vaccine be given to my child?

	<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 or in their leg.</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>

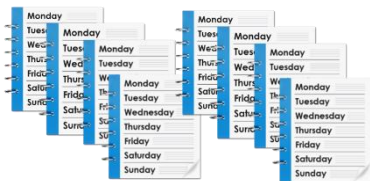
How many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will my child need?



Your child will need 3 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Your child will get the second dose of the vaccine 3 weeks after their first dose.



Your child will get a third dose of the vaccine 8 weeks after the second dose.

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 with children are:

- feeling irritable
- feeling drowsy or tired
- not feeling hungry
- soreness, swelling, redness, or itching where your child had their injection
- sore knees, elbows, or other joints
- sore muscles
- sore head
- feeling sick or getting sick
- diarrhoea
- chills or fever – a high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- a rash.



Up to 1 in 100 children may:

- feel itchy
- have swollen lymph glands
- not want to sleep
- sweat
- have no energy
- feel unwell
- have pain in their arm or leg where they had the vaccine.



Some people get other side effects.

These do not happen often.

Rarely children may have:

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



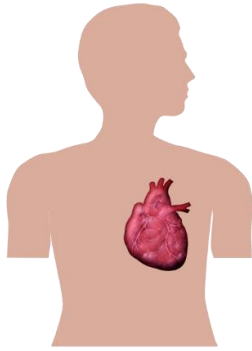
It is extremely rare for someone to have a severe allergic reaction to the COVID-19 vaccine.

Your vaccinator is trained to treat your child if they 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.



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 is very rare in children aged 6 months to 4 years.

It is more common in young men.

This can happen within 2 weeks of getting the COVID-19 vaccine and is seen more after the second dose.



The symptoms of myocarditis and pericarditis are:

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

In young children, the symptoms can also be:

- feeling irritable
- getting sick
- difficulty feeding
- fast breathing or difficulty breathing
- tiredness.



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

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 Ibuprofen.

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.



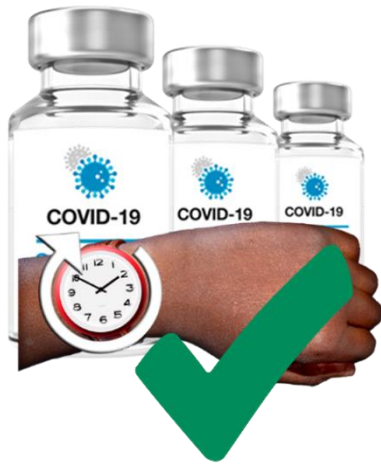
Before getting this vaccine talk to your doctor if your child had myocarditis or pericarditis after a COVID-19 vaccine.



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 and
- 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 third dose of Pfizer vaccine.

Most children who get 3 doses of 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.

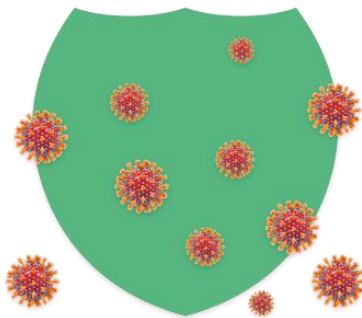
Does the COVID-19 vaccine work for everyone?



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?

	<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>
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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>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)