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Update on Spring COVID-19 Booster Campaign

Dear Pharmacist,

I refer to Circular NCO-16-2023 COVID-19 Booster Vaccination Campaign Spring 2023, dated 21st April 2023.

The HSE Spring Booster Vaccination Programme is now underway in line with National Immunisation Guidance Committee (NIAC) recommendations.

The following groups should get a Spring booster dose if they have not had a COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 infection in the last 6 months:

- those aged 70 years and older.
- those living in long term care facilities for older adults.
- those aged 5 years and older with immunocompromise associated with a suboptimal response to vaccination*.

*Note: Described in public communications as those with a 'weak immune system' and listed in more detail on the HSE website at <https://www2.hse.ie/screening-and-vaccinations/covid-19-vaccine/get-the-vaccine/weak-immune-system/#weak-immune-system-list>.

Please also refer to section 2.1 of the [Clinical Guidance](#) (pages 8-9).

Eligible individuals can be offered the Spring booster at a 3 months interval after their last COVID-19 vaccine or infection to ensure they get their Spring booster before the end of May.

If they had a booster since 1 March 2023, they have had their spring booster.

While the Spring booster programme is aimed for completion by the end of May, it is recognised that in some cases, given the timeframe, vaccinations may run into June. Ideally all spring boosters should be completed by 16th June so that there is an adequate interval before their Autumn booster.

If eligible patients from the groups listed above come forward for a Spring booster after 16th June, then clinical discretion should be used to assess the risk, benefit and impact on Autumn booster timing before administering a Spring booster.

Outside of the Spring booster programme, certain cohorts can get their COVID-19 vaccine at any time of the year. These include:

- those who are due any COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy, including primary courses and any booster
- individuals getting their primary course, additional dose or first booster

For full NIAC guidance, please refer to NIAC Immunisation Guidelines Ch 5a, at: <https://www.rcpi.ie/healthcare-leadership/niac/immunisation-guidelines-for-ireland>

Further information is also available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/>

For any clinical queries please contact immunisation@hse.ie.



I would like once again to express my sincere gratitude to Pharmacists and their teams for the efficient manner in which the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme has been delivered to date. I would also like to wish you and your pharmacy team every success in delivering the Spring booster vaccinations.

Please be assured of the HSE's continued support at this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', with a horizontal line underneath.

Geraldine Crowley
Assistant National Director
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contract