

HSE NATIONAL IMMUNISATION OFFICE

IMMUNISATION BULLETIN 58

THIS EDITION COVERS

- The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommendations for adapted COVID-19 booster vaccines
- Anaphylaxis associated with Trometamol (used in MRI scans only)
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The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommendations for adapted COVID-19 booster vaccines

NIAC advice now to be operationalised:

Any healthy people aged 18-49 years are able to receive a second COVID-19 booster vaccine if they wish provided there is **at least a SIX month interval** since their previous vaccine dose or SARS-CoV-2 infection.

This may apply particularly to those who are carers or those who live with someone with immunocompromise. In exceptional circumstances, an interval of three months may be used.

NIAC advice soon to be operationalised:

Anyone aged 12-64 years old with an underlying medical condition who received a second COVID-19 booster vaccine with a non-adapted COVID-19 vaccine, may receive a third COVID-19 booster vaccine with an adapted (bi-valent) formulation **at least FOUR months** since their last booster vaccine

Group		Primary course*	Additional dose	1 st booster	2 nd booster	3 rd booster
65 years and older		√√		√	√	√
50-64 years		√√		√	√	√**
12-49 years	<i>Underlying medical conditions</i>	√√		√	√	√**
	<i>Residents of long term care facilities</i>	√√		√	√	
	<i>Healthcare workers</i>	√√		√	√	
	<i>Others (12-17 years)</i>	√√		√		
18-49 years		√√		√	√****	
Pregnancy		√√		√	√****	
5-11 years		√√				
12 years and older	<i>Immunocompromise associated with a sub optimal response to vaccines</i>	√√	√	√	√	√
		√√	√	√		
5-11 years		√√		√		

*two dose primary course (one dose if JCOVDEN/COVID-19 vaccine Janssen)

**those aged 12-64 years with an underlying medical condition who have not received a bivalent booster vaccine

***permissive approach for those aged 18-49 years who wish to receive a second booster vaccine if there is at least a six month interval since their previous vaccine dose or SARS-CoV-2 infection (an interval of 3 months may be used in exceptional circumstances)

****at 16 weeks gestation or later if not already boosted in this pregnancy



Download the updated

- [Medicine Protocols](#) and
- [COVID-19 Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

In January 2023, the COVID-19 HSEland e-learning programmes and vaccine journey will be updated to support this programme.



See NIAC Chapter 5a COVID-19 [here](#).

NOTE: NIAC will issue an updated Chapter 5a COVID-19 in early 2023 to reflect these updated recommendations.

FAQ: Are there any differences between the excipients of the Comirnaty original vaccine and the Comirnaty adapted vaccines?

The Comirnaty adapted vaccines contain

- Original/ Omicron BA.1 30 micrograms
- Original/ Omicron BA.4-5 30 micrograms

Please note: the Comirnaty 30 micrograms ready to use vaccine and all Spikevax vaccines also contain Trometamol.

Anaphylaxis associated with Trometamol (used in MRI scans only)

Trometamol has been implicated in one report of contrast medium anaphylaxis relating to gadolinium-based contrast agents (GBCAs) used in **MRI radiological studies only**.

Patients with documented anaphylaxis to trometamol or to GBCAs used in **MRI scans** should not receive these vaccines (see Q16, and Q25 for the Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 vaccines for people with pre-existing allergic conditions. The document is accessible via the link below for information regarding those aged 5-11 years.



Read more [here](#).

COVID-19 bivalent vaccines for primary vaccination

Bivalent COVID-19 vaccines are not currently recommended for use in primary vaccination against COVID-19 infection in Ireland. Those requiring a primary vaccination course should attend a COVID-19 Central Vaccination Clinic (CVC). The European Medicines Agency (EMA) Emergency Task Force (ETF) have considered that the bivalent original/Omicron BA.4-5 vaccines may be used in previously unvaccinated children and adults.

Based on these considerations, national authorities may decide to use these adapted bivalent vaccines for primary vaccination in their national vaccination campaigns, should it become necessary.

Further clinical research and observational studies are expected to provide additional information on the safety and effectiveness of the bivalent vaccines for primary vaccination.

There is no change to the vaccines license and these bivalent vaccines are currently only authorised as boosters. NIAC have made no recommendation to date about this.

Read more [here](#).

The Laura Brennan HPV Vaccine Catch up programme



When I got my diagnosis I decided that I would do anything to stop this from happening to anyone else.

Laura Brennan
#ThankYouLaura



Laura Brennan HPV Vaccine Catch Up Programme

The Laura Brennan HPV Vaccine Catch up programme was launched on December 8 by Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly.

A HPV vaccine will be offered to:

- females in 2nd to 6th year of secondary school
- females under the age of 25
- males in 2nd to 4th year of secondary school
- males in 5th year who skipped Transition Year

From December 8th the following groups have been able to book a HPV vaccine catch-up appointment:

- female age 16 to 24 years
- male age 16 or older who started 1st year of secondary school, home-schooled or a special school between 2019 and 2021.

Further HPV vaccine clinics will be offered in 2023.

Learn more about the programme [here](#).

Frequently asked questions

NIAC now recommend a single dose schedule of HPV9 vaccine for all those aged 9 years to less than 25 years of age.

What is the new HPV vaccine schedule recommended by the NIAC for those aged 25 years or more?

A two dose schedule is now recommended for all those aged 25 years or older if the vaccine is recommended through the age of 45 years at an interval of 0 and 6-12 months.

Why is the HPV vaccine schedule being changed?

NIAC advise there is now sufficient evidence that there is no significant difference in vaccine effectiveness between those aged nine to 24 years of age who are immunocompetent who receive one, two, or three vaccine doses.

What is HPV vaccine schedule for immunocompromised for HPV infection?

A three dose schedule of HPV9 vaccine at 0, 2 and 6 months regardless of age (for further information on the immunocompromised individuals requiring 3 doses of HPV vaccine, please see [NIAC Chapter 10 Human papillomavirus](#)).

Watch or Listen back NIO's Lunch & Learn webinars

This month we launched our Lunch & Learn webinar series, covering two timely topics:

- Increasing Uptake for the Children's Nasal Flu Vaccine. **Watch back [here](#).**
- Increasing Flu Vaccine Uptake in Health & Care Workers in Long-Term Care Facilities. **Watch back [here](#)**



You can now also listen to the webinar series on Spotify [here](#).

We were joined by experts from the NIO team and our partners, including Dr Patrick Kelly, ICGP and Dr John Foster, Rush GP, discussing the importance of flu vaccination this winter and resources and tools available for health and care professionals to increase uptake.

Happy Holidays from the NIO!

On behalf of the entire team in the National Immunisation Office we want to wish all our readers and vaccine advocates a very Happy New Year and the best of wishes for 2023.

We are looking forward to working with you all again in 2023 to continue preventing vaccine preventable diseases.



Website

Visit website [here](#).

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

HSeLand Vaccination Training Programme

Visit HSeLand [here](#).

You will find 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**.

Contact HSeLand [here](#).

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

Do you have queries?

Send your query [here](#).

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

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

- Cliona Kiersey: mobile 087 9915452
- Achal Gupta: mobile 087 4064810

If you have a query about errors or changes to records on COVAX, please contact the Contact Management Programme on 01 240 8786.

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



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