



## COVID-19 VACCINATION FOR HOUSEBOUND PERSONS (PHASE 7) HSE Stakeholder Communication

### 1) Scope and Context

It has been recognised previously within the National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme that a certain cohort of society are housebound or bedbound and so are unable to attend a vaccination clinic in the community. A home vaccination service has been provided for these individuals in two previous phases (for those aged 70 and over, and then for those aged 12 and over).

**Phase 7** of vaccination for housebound children from 5 – 11 years will be managed by Mobile Community Vaccination Teams in each area.

On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 the European Medicines Agency (EMA) recommended granting extension of indication for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) to include children aged 5–11 years.

On the 08<sup>th</sup> December 2021 National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) published guidance on COVID-19 vaccination for children aged 5 to 11 years.

#### NIAC recommendations:

1. COVID-19 Vaccination is strongly recommended for those aged 5 to 11 years:
  - With underlying conditions
  - Living with a younger child with complex medical needs
  - Living with a person who is immunocompromised
2. For children aged 5 to 11 years, the recommended COVID-19 vaccine is Comirnaty® formulation for children aged 5-11 years (10 micrograms/dose). The dose schedule of Comirnaty® for this age group is 10 micrograms, two doses three weeks apart.
3. Children aged 5 to 11 years who are severely immunocompromised should be given a third dose of Comirnaty® at least 28 days after the second dose to complete the primary series.
4. For Immunocompromised – a Hospital Consultant notifies the CVC of the child’s status. This is being coordinated centrally with CHI who are submitting the details to City West VC who will then flag the patient records as being immunocompromised. (The Regional CHO Vaccination Team will be informed that the child is due an additional dose).
5. Before vaccination, parents/legal guardian should be informed of the known benefits, risks and uncertainties of COVID-19 vaccination. The decision to accept, defer or refuse vaccination for a child should be respected.



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6. Every effort should be made to avoid any adverse impact from the COVID-19 vaccination programme for children aged 5 to 11 years on the routine primary childhood and school immunisation programmes.

Full NIAC guidance available at:

<https://rcpi-live-cdn.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/NIAC-Recommendations-on-COVID-19-vaccination-for-children-aged-5-to-11-years.pdf>

### Vaccine

To date the HSE Vaccination Programme uses Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) for adults, adolescents and children aged 12 years and above. The Comirnaty® vaccine authorised for children aged 5-11 years is a different formulation, it contains 10 micrograms per dose and is specifically for children of this age group. The dose contained in this vaccine is lower than that used in people aged 12 and above.

### Diluted vials

The manufacturers advise that at the present time there is no data available regarding the stability of diluted 10mcg/dose (Children 5-11 years) vials during transportation.

A diluted vaccine vial should not be transported for use between house visits (i.e. only 1 vial per house visit).

## 2) Referral of children requiring a Home Vaccination

**Children identified as meeting criteria for home vaccination:** Children eligible for dose 1 and dose 2 dose and an additional dose vaccination in accordance with NIAC guidance who now meet the eligibility criteria for a home vaccination service can be referred by one of the following:

- General Practitioner.
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Primary Care Service.
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Disability Service.
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Mental Health Service.
- Nominated CHO lead for the CHO Older Persons Service.

Such referrals should be submitted via the enclosed *Housebound REFERRAL FORM – Version Jan 2022* (Note: this form is applicable for any referral for Housebound Vaccinations).



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### 3) Estimate of Persons to be vaccinated

Phase 7: it is estimated that a total of 160 children will require vaccination as part of this phase of the home vaccination programme.

### 4) Timelines for Vaccination

New referrals for home vaccination for Phase 7 are expected to commence from the week commencing 24th Jan 2022 with expectation that new referrals for this phase to be submitted no later than early February 2022. Home vaccination of this cohort is expected to commence from week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 and will be completed by the end of February 2022 (or a later date if an additional dose is required).

### 5) Mobile Community Vaccination Teams Requirements

**Home Vaccination Team set-up:** Each vaccination team who will conduct home vaccinations should be composed of a vaccinator and other person with appropriate training who will accompany the vaccinator. Additionally, administrative resources should be provided to support the identification of patients from Covax, the management of new referrals for home vaccination and for scheduling.

**Workforce Requirements:** It is estimated that each home vaccination team should be able to conduct 6 home vaccinations per day while administrative efforts are estimated at 1 day per 15 persons to be vaccinated.

### 6) Vaccination Process

A detailed operating procedure has been developed and is being distributed to all vaccination teams – **5 - 11 Year Old Home Vaccination Service SOP for Regional Home Vaccination Teams (Version One)**.