



# Information for people with a weak immune system on getting an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine

## What is a weak immune system?

Your immune system fights infection and germs in your body. Your immune system can be weak if you have health problems or take medicines that weaken your ability to fight infection.

Your doctor will help you decide if you should get an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

## Am I more at risk from COVID-19 if my immune system is weak?

Yes, you are at risk of getting seriously ill if you get COVID-19.

## I already got a COVID-19 vaccine. Why are you offering me an additional dose of vaccine?

We hope that an additional dose of vaccine:

- may improve your immune system's response to the vaccine.
- may give you better protection against COVID-19.
- may prevent you from getting seriously ill with COVID-19.

## Which vaccine can I get?

If you are 30 years or older we are offering you a single dose of the Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) or Spikevax® (Moderna) vaccine. If you are 29 years or younger you will be offered a single dose of the Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. These are mRNA vaccines. You can have these vaccines even if you already got a different vaccine. We will give you an information leaflet on this vaccine. It has important information, please read it. You can also find it on [hse.ie/covid19vaccine/](https://hse.ie/covid19vaccine/)

## **When should I get an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?**

You should get an additional dose of the vaccine at least two months after finishing a course of COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have had COVID-19 since you were vaccinated, wait for six months before getting an additional dose.

## **What do we know about the safety of getting an additional dose of vaccine?**

We have less information on the safety of an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Some countries are giving an additional dose. Studies on people getting an additional dose haven't shown any serious side effects so far.

## **Is an additional dose of vaccine licensed by the European Medicines Agency?**

The EMA has approved an additional dose of the same mRNA vaccine.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), in Ireland, has also recommended that you can get any mRNA vaccine as a booster dose, regardless of which vaccine you have received. For example, if you got the AstraZeneca vaccine, you may now be offered a booster dose of either Moderna or Pfizer. This is recommended by NIAC but not yet approved by the EMA. Visit [ema.europa.eu](https://ema.europa.eu) for more information.

## **Can I get the additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine or other vaccines?**

Yes, you can get the additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine or other vaccines.

## **Further information**

You can read more about the vaccines on [hse.ie/covid19vaccine/](https://hse.ie/covid19vaccine/)

You can also talk to your GP, nurse, pharmacist or vaccinator.