

COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 40

Welcome to special edition Bulletin 40 from the HSE National Immunisation Office which highlights changes in clinical guidance for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Recommendations from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee

Observation time after administration of an mRNA booster dose

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) recommends that the 15 minute observation period following administration of a homologous or heterologous booster COVID-19 mRNA vaccine can be temporarily waived.

The reasons for this recommendation are:

- As the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly there is an urgent need to give people booster vaccinations as soon as possible. Booster doses of an mRNA vaccine have been shown to significantly increase vaccine effectiveness against Omicron.
- The risk of a serious allergic reaction after mRNA vaccination is very rare (1-10 per million).
- Removing the 15 minute post observation requirement will enable more people to be vaccinated

This recommendation **does not apply to those:**

- Receiving a primary COVID-19 vaccine course, who should be observed for 15 minutes
- With a history of anaphylaxis from any cause receiving a booster vaccine, who should be observed for at least 30 minutes.

If people are receiving another vaccine (e.g. flu vaccine) at the same time as the mRNA booster dose, they must be observed for 15 minutes.

Vaccine recipients should be advised to seek urgent medical attention if they have symptoms suggestive of an allergic reaction such as difficulty breathing, feeling faint, rapid heartbeat or a skin rash.

[Read more here](#)



After your COVID-19 Booster Vaccine

If you

have difficulty breathing or



feel dizzy or



have a fast heartbeat or



a skin rash



Get medical care immediately.
This could be a sign of an allergic reaction.

Please wait

15 Minutes if this is your first or second vaccine
30 minutes if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis)

Advice has been provided by the RCP National Immunisation Advisory Committee.
Read their COVID-19 Chapter from the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland from <https://bit.ly/NIAC5a>

Download and print our
Post Vaccination Observation Poster

[Click here](#)

Updated NIAC Chapter

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee have updated Chapter 5a COVID-19 for their Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland.

[Read NIAC guidelines here](#)

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Vaccination of children aged 5-11 years

Vaccination of the following children will begin next week in conjunction with paediatric units. The online registration portal will open for parents to self register if their children are in the priority group. Parents of these children being invited to register for vaccination:

- children aged 5-11 years who have an underlying medical condition that puts them at high risk or very high risk of COVID-19
- children aged 5-11 years who live with a younger child with complex medical needs
- children aged 5-11 years who live with a child or adult who is immunocompromised

Vaccination of other children will begin in January 2022.

We have developed the following resources:

- SOP
- Medicines Protocol
- FAQs
- Clinical Guidance
- Consent information
- **New HSEland training programme at www.hseland.ie**

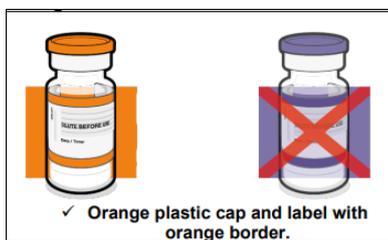
Information Comirnaty® (10 micrograms/dose concentrate) for children aged 5-11

[Click here](#)

Information about the Programme for children 5 to 11

[Click here](#)

The Comirnaty® (10 micrograms/dose concentrate) for children aged 5-11 vaccine is being administered in CVCs. It is a different vaccine to the formulation for aged 12 and older. The vaccine will be administered through CVCs. GPs and Pharmacists will not be vaccinating children aged 5-11 at this time. The vial has an orange plastic cap and a label with an orange border.



Comirnaty® (Pfizer/BioNTech) Vaccine Formulations Guide

A Quick Reference Guide to dosing, dilution, and storage information.
(Refer to www.immunisation.ie and Summary of Product Characteristics for full guidance)

Formulation	12 years and older Dilute to use	5-11 year olds Dilute to use
Vial	Multi-Dose Vial	Multi-Dose Vial
Vial Cap Colour	Purple Plastic Cap	Orange Plastic Cap
Dosage	30 mcg (Thirty microgram)	10 mcg (Ten microgram)
Dilution	Dilution required	Dilution required
Amount of Diluent Needed Per Vial	1.8ml	1.3ml
Vial Size	2ml	2ml
Doses per Vial	6 doses per vial (after dilution)	10 doses per vial (after dilution)
Injection Volume per Dose	0.3ml	0.2ml
Fill Volume per Vial	0.45ml	1.3ml
Refrigeration Storage Time (+2°C to +8°C)	1 month (within shelf life)	Up to 10 Weeks (within shelf life)
Room Temperature (+2°C to +30°C)	Up to 2 hours prior to dilution	Up to 12 hours prior to dilution
After Dilution (+2°C to +30°C)	Discard by 8 hours after dilution	Discard by 12 hours after dilution
Package Size	105 vials	10 vials

For any questions regarding deviations in practice from that recommended in the guidance please contact the National Immunisation Office.

13 December 2021 Version 1

Download Comirnaty® (Pfizer/BioNTech) Vaccine Formulations Guide

[Click here](#)

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COVID-19 placentitis associated with miscarriage, stillbirth and early neonatal death

The Royal College of Physicians of Ireland's Institute of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Faculty of Pathology have highlighted cases of placentitis associated with miscarriage, stillbirth and early neonatal death: There have been a number of recently reported cases of COVID-19 associated placentitis leading to 2nd trimester miscarriage, stillbirth and early neonatal death. These cases correspond to the Delta variant wave with high prevalence in the community.

There have been 6 cases of late miscarriage or stillbirth confirmed in this Delta wave (with 13 fetal /perinatal deaths in total since Jan 2021, from current data). Gestations of the recent cases have been between 20 weeks and term gestation. All affected pregnancies in the Delta wave were unvaccinated. None of the mothers had severe COVID-19 illness and none were in ICU.

Some cases of COVID-19 placentitis that were delivered expeditiously and there was a good perinatal outcome.

This report highlights the importance of COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy. Pregnant women are also a priority group for booster vaccination.

New resources have been developed to support vaccinators:

[Read more here](#)

6 REASONS TO GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE

- COVID-19 can be serious for you and your baby**
You are more likely to get very unwell and need treatment in intensive care than a woman who is not pregnant. COVID-19 in pregnancy can cause premature labour or stillbirth. Getting the vaccine helps protect you and your baby from serious illness and hospitalisation from COVID-19.
- The safety of the vaccine**
Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women have safely received COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 vaccines are not shown to have any negative effect on babies in the womb. They may help to protect your baby after birth as you may pass on antibodies to your baby.
- Any stage of pregnancy**
You can get the vaccine at any stage of pregnancy. You can get it in the early stages of pregnancy or if you are close to full term, but the sooner you get it, the sooner you and your baby are protected.
If you have already been vaccinated, you can get your booster dose at any stage of pregnancy.
- Protect you and your baby**
Your own body develops protection against COVID-19 after vaccination. Your body develops antibodies against COVID-19. They pass across the placenta to your baby. The vaccine 'kicks' it broken down in your body and disappears after a few days.
- Most side-effects are mild and short-lived**
Most side effects from the vaccine are mild, and go away after a few days. They include a sore arm, tiredness, a temperature and a headache. Serious side effects, like an allergic reaction are very rare.
- No effect on fertility**
COVID-19 vaccines have no effect on fertility. COVID-19 vaccines are clearly monitored around the world. There is no information to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines have any effect on your ability to get pregnant or on fertility.

Ask to your doctor or Midwife about COVID-19 vaccines or visit the HSE website www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/immunisation-centre.asp to learn more about COVID-19 vaccines. Scan the QR code to visit the HSE website.

Download 6 reasons to get COVID-19 Vaccine to display in your clinic

[Click here](#)

COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy
HSE National Immunisation Office

COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy slideset for training and education sessions

[Click here](#)

Do you have queries?

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

[Send your query](#)

