



Information for people getting a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine

Who should get a booster dose of the vaccine?

You should get a booster dose if you are 50 years or older, living in a nursing home or a long-term healthcare facility or you are 16 years to 59 years with an underlying condition.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) is recommending a booster dose of vaccine for you.

Why should I get a booster dose of the vaccine?

You may be more at risk of serious illness from COVID-19, even if you are already vaccinated. This may be because:

- your immune system does not respond as strongly to vaccination.
- the protection from the vaccination you got already may weaken with time.
- you may be more at risk of catching COVID-19 with society opening up.
- the more infectious Delta variant of COVID-19 is spreading.
- COVID-19 can spread fast in nursing homes and long-term residential care facilities.
- you may have medical conditions that put you more at risk of severe infection from COVID-19.

We hope that a booster dose will protect you better against 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 we will offer you a single dose of of the Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. These are mRNA vaccines. You can have this vaccine 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/

When should I get a booster dose of the vaccine?

- You should get a booster dose at least five months after finishing a course of COVID-19 vaccines. Sometimes you might get it at least two months after finishing the course. People who got the COVID-19 vaccine Janssen® should get a booster dose at least three months after their first dose.
- If you have had COVID-19 since you were vaccinated, wait for six months before you get a booster dose.

You don't need a booster dose at this time if you have already received an additional vaccine dose because you are immunocompromised.

What do we know about the safety of a booster dose?

We have less information on the safety of the booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Some countries are giving booster doses. Studies on people who got a booster dose haven't shown any serious side effects.

Is the booster dose of vaccine licensed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)?

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 for more information.

Can I get the booster dose of vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine or other vaccines?

Yes, you can get the COVID-19 booster 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/

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

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