



Vaccinator Advisory Note:

COVID-19 Vaccination Scenarios in Pregnancy

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) revised the recommendations on 26th April 2021 regarding COVID-19 vaccinations in pregnancy. This is due to growing evidence of the increased likelihood of poorer maternal and fetal outcomes from COVID-19 infection in pregnancy.

The guidance advises

“Pregnant women should be offered mRNA COVID-19 vaccination between 14-36 completed weeks gestation following an individual benefit/risk discussion with their obstetric care giver.”

Two mRNA vaccines are currently authorised in Ireland:

- Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) and
- Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna)

Both these vaccines follow a two-dose vaccination schedule. COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable. Other vaccines may be administered with COVID-19 vaccines at the same time or at any interval. If other vaccines are being given at the same time as COVID-19 vaccines it is preferable to give them in different limbs.

Paracetamol can be taken if there is fever post vaccination. Ibuprofen or aspirin are not advised in pregnancy.

COVID-19 Vaccination Scenarios in Pregnancy and Recommended Actions

For all of the following scenarios in Table 1 it is expected that the woman has had a discussion with her obstetric care provider regarding the risks and benefits of the COVID-19 vaccine, with a favourable outcome recommending vaccination.

**** The minimum interval may be used to finish the vaccine course before 36 completed weeks gestation****

Table 1: COVID-19 Vaccination Scenarios in Pregnancy

Scenario	Recommended Action
1. Before 14 completed weeks of gestation and no previous COVID-19 vaccine	Give two doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine between 14 and 36 completed weeks gestation
2. Before 14 completed weeks pregnancy and a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine	Give 2 nd dose of the same vaccine (including Vaxzevria®) on or after 14 completed weeks gestation
3. Between 14 and 36 completed weeks gestation and no previous COVID-19 vaccine	Give two doses of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine between 14 and 36 completed weeks gestation
4. Before 36 completed weeks gestation and no previous COVID-19 vaccine	Give 1 st dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. If 2 nd dose cannot be given on or before 36 completed weeks of gestation then give postpartum
5. After 36 completed weeks gestation and no previous COVID-19 vaccine	Give vaccine postpartum in line with current prioritisation schedule based on age and other medical conditions. Breastfeeding is not a contraindication to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine
6. A single dose of Vaxzevria® (formerly COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca®) during pregnancy	Give 2 nd dose between 4 and 12 weeks after the first dose if between 14 and 36 completed weeks gestation or else postpartum*

* There is no evidence of an increased risk of Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS) after the second dose of Vaxzevria® (current evidence suggests the risk is much lower after the second dose compared to the first dose)

Postpartum women who have not had one dose of COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy should be vaccinated in line with the current prioritisation schedule based on age and other medical conditions.

**Vaccinator Advisory Note:
COVID-19 Vaccination Scenarios in Pregnancy**

Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech)

For Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) there is an interval of 28 days between doses. The minimum interval between doses is 17 days. Table 2 outlines actions required if there are variations in the interval between the two doses of Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech).

Table 2: Interval between doses of Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech)

Interval between 1 st and 2 nd doses	Action required
Less than 17 days	If the second dose is given before 17 days, this is not considered a valid vaccine. A third dose should be given 28 days after the second (invalid) vaccine.
17 to 27 days	No further action needed (Evidence from trial data is that this is a valid vaccine).
Longer than 28 days	Give the 2 nd dose at whatever interval. The course does not need to be restarted.

Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna)

For Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) there is an interval of 28 days between doses. The minimum interval between doses is 24 days. Table 3 outlines actions required if there are variations in the interval between the two doses of Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna).

Table 3: Interval between doses of Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna)

Interval between 1 st and 2 nd doses	Action required
Less than 24 days	If the second dose is given before 24 days, this is not considered a valid vaccine. A third dose should be given 28 days after the second (invalid) vaccine.
24 to 27 days	No further action needed (Evidence from trial data that this is a valid vaccine).
Longer than 28 days	Give the 2 nd dose at whatever interval. The course does not need to be restarted.

Key Resources:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Decision Aid for Pregnant Women. Available [HERE](#)
- NIAC Recommendations for COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy. Available [HERE](#)
- Questions and Answers for Pregnant or Breastfeeding Women About COVID-19 Vaccination (Updated May 2021). Available [HERE](#)
- HSE COVID-19 Vaccination Checklist Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) and Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) use only. Available [HERE](#)
- HSE Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination. Available [HERE](#)