



Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 Vaccines



This is a summary of information, the full clinical guidance and NIAC guidelines should be consulted at www.immunisation.ie

Name of Vaccine	Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech)	Spikevax® (Moderna)	Vaxzevria® (AstraZeneca)	COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen®
Type of Vaccine	mRNA vaccine	mRNA vaccine	Viral vector vaccine	Viral vector vaccine
Indicated for	Age 12 years and older	Age 12 years and older	Age 50 years and older (Licensed for age 18 and older)**	Age 50 years and older (Licensed for age 18 and older)**
Number of doses required	2	2	2	1
Interval	21-28 days	28 days	4-12 weeks (4 weeks preferred)	Not Applicable
Supplied by National Cold Chain Service (NCCS)	+2°C to +8°C with shelf life of 1 month (31 days) from removal from ultra low temperature (ULT) in NCCS	Frozen at -25° to -15°C Thaw prior to use: +2°C to +8°C for 2 hours and 30 minutes (keep at room temperature for 15 minutes before administration) OR +8°C to +25°C for 1 hour	+2°C to +8°C	+2°C to +8°C (with shelf life of 4.5 months from removal from freezer in NCCS)
Dilution	Dilute with 1.8ml of 0.9% sodium chloride	DO NOT DILUTE	DO NOT DILUTE	DO NOT DILUTE
Handling	DO NOT SHAKE Cannot be used if shaken Invert vial 10 times prior to dilution Gently invert the diluted dispersion 10 times	DO NOT SHAKE Cannot be used if shaken Gently swirl vial prior to withdrawing each dose	DO NOT SHAKE Should not be shaken but can be used if shaken	DO NOT SHAKE Should not be shaken but can be used if shaken Gently swirl the vial for 10 seconds before withdrawing each dose
Shelf life of an unopened vial @ +2°C to +8°C (NOTE must be stored upright)	1 month i.e., 31 days (until “use before” time and date) from removal of vial from ULT freezer in NCCS	30 days (until “use before” time and date)	Until expiry date	4.5 months (until “use before” time and date)
Shelf life once vial is opened “discard time”	6 hours after dilution	19 hours* from the time of first puncture (within the allowed use period of 30 days at 2°C to 8°C and 24 hours at 8°C to 25°C)	6 hours after first puncture***	3 hours after first puncture
Dose	0.3ml	0.5ml	0.5ml	0.5ml
Number of doses per vial	6 doses	10 doses	10 doses	5 doses

*For sites using TrackVax, the system can accept 19 hours or midnight, whichever is the first to be reached.

**mRNA vaccine should be given in pregnancy, with the exception of those completing a schedule of Vaxzevria®.

***48 hours in specific circumstances. An opened vial of Vaxzevria® may be stored in a refrigerator (+2°C – +8°C) for a maximum of 48 hours if it is immediately returned to the refrigerator following each puncture. Please refer to the SmPC for details.