



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

National Disability Services Quality Improvement Office
Community Operations
Health Service Executive (HSE)
Suite 1, Daly's SuperValu Complex
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Day Service Attendees being offered the COVID vaccination Process to support informed consent and will and preference

The HSE vaccination programme operates on the assumption that adults have capacity to make their own decisions.

1.0 People who are able to communicate their consent -

Most people with disabilities who attend a Day Service will decide if they want to receive the vaccine or wish to decline the vaccine. Full information about the vaccine and the vaccination process should be provided to each day service user who is able to decide and communicate their own consent. This information should be imparted by the day service provider and reinforced by their family. These individuals will attend the vaccination clinic, (either on their own or accompanied) and will communicate their consent to the vaccinator.

2.0 Individuals who are unable to communicate their decision -

There will be another group of individuals who will be able to consent, once they are supported to understand the information, but **will be unable to communicate that consent** to the vaccinator. The process to ensure that the individual is supported to understand the information in order to make an informed choice will be done **in partnership** between the individual's family and their Day Service Provider. In order to ensure that each person is as fully informed as possible, and that the vaccinator can be assured that the individual **who is unable to communicate their consent** is fully informed and agreeing to the vaccination, a process will be undertaken as follows:

- I. Prior to the vaccination, people who know the person best (e.g. family/friends/advocates) will read through the guidance document '*Guidance for Families on COVID-19 Vaccination and Consent*' https://hse.drsteevenslibrary.ie/ld.php?content_id=33499149 to support the individual to understand what COVID is, the purpose of the vaccine, the potential side-effects etc.
- II. Prior to the vaccination, the individual will be supported by a day service staff member to prepare for the vaccine using the '*Guidance and Practical Resource Pack in preparation for COVID-19 vaccination programme in disability services*' <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/guidance-and-practical-resource-pack-in-preparation-for-covid-19-vaccination-programme-disability-services.pdf>

The resource pack provides four communication tools on pages 26 –61 (designed to support individuals with different levels of communication supports). The staff member will select the most appropriate communication supports and provide factual information about the vaccine to each person in a format that is best suited to their needs. This can be done by phone if an individual is uncomfortable attending a Day Service at this time and can be done by the staff member who knows the person best, for example a Key Worker, Care Assistant, Social Care Worker, Nurse etc.



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The staff member will sign that they have undertaken this process to “support the person to make an informed decision when offered a COVID-19 vaccine”. This signature page is found on pages 31, 43, 53 or 60 depending on which communication tool is being used. The staff member signs on the “Support staff name” line. The staff member is **not** signing that they are consenting on behalf of the individual but rather confirming that they have undertaken an information sharing process with the individual.

III. The staff member will also complete PAGE 2 only of the checklist (page 1 will be completed at the vaccination centre) <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/covidchecklistpm.pdf> (Pfizer or Moderna Vaccine) or <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/covidvacchecklistazj.pdf> (AstraZeneca or Janssen Vaccine) (no signature is required on this) outlining which option is most appropriate for this individual when establishing consent

1. The individual has been provided with the relevant information and has indicated that they consent to be vaccinated.

OR

2. The individual has been provided with relevant information and does not consent to be vaccinated

OR

3. The individual's consent to be vaccinated cannot be confirmed. They are being vaccinated for COVID-19 according to their benefit and will and preference. This is recorded in their personal record and includes information about the consultation that has taken place to help determine their will and preference (see 3.0 below)

These documents can be picked up by the individual or the family member at the Day Service prior to the vaccination and presented to the vaccinator in the vaccination clinic. Alternatively, the documents can be scanned and emailed to the family or individual to bring to the clinic. If neither of these is possible, the documents can be scanned directly to the vaccination clinic.

3.0 Individuals who do not have the capacity to consent –

There will be a third group of individuals whose capacity to consent cannot be confirmed.

A process is conducted to ensure that the person's will and preference (for example - have they received other vaccinations in the past?) are ascertained.

This will be done in conjunction with an assessment of the benefit of the vaccination to the person.

These processes will be conducted **in partnership** between the individual's family, the GP, the Day Service Provider staff and the individual's circle of support.

Following these processes, if the assessment indicates that the person can't consent even with support but that the vaccination is not contrary to his/her will and



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preferences AND that the vaccination is for his/her benefit and that the person should be vaccinated, the **staff member** in the Day Service will indicate number 3 on page 2 of the checklist form (attached).

This document can be picked up by the individual or the family member at the Day Service prior to the vaccination and presented to the vaccinator in the vaccination clinic. Alternatively, the document can be scanned and emailed to the family or individual to bring to the clinic. If neither of these is possible, the document can be scanned directly to the vaccination clinic.