

Welcome to Bulletin 47 from the HSE National Immunisation Office.

# Resources for people coming to Ireland from Ukraine

It's important that children and adults coming from Ukraine are age-appropriately vaccinated in line with the Irish schedule. MMR and polio vaccination are priorities. Measles is endemic in Ukraine and cases have been reported in neighbouring countries. Cases of Polio have also been reported from Ukraine.

We have developed resources to support immunisation of people coming to Ireland from Ukraine. These can be found on a <u>dedicated webpage</u> on our website <u>www.immunisation.ie</u>. Please visit this webpage regularly as we'll add more information to it as it is developed.



#### **More information**

Information to support people from Ukraine is available **here**.

### **Resources for healthcare professionals**



- Information on catch-up vaccinations
- Information on COVID-19 vaccination
- Vaccine abbreviations in English, Ukrainian and Russian
- · Translated posters for display in clinical and other settings
  - General Poster in <u>English</u>, <u>Ukrainian</u> and <u>Russian</u>
  - Primary Childhood Immunisation Programme in <u>English</u>, <u>Ukrainian</u> and <u>Russian</u>
  - School Programme in English, Ukrainian and Russian
  - Influenza vaccine for at risk groups in <u>English</u>, <u>Ukrainian</u> and <u>Russian</u>
  - Influenza vaccine for pregnant women in <u>English</u>, <u>Ukrainian</u> and <u>Russian</u>
  - Pertussis vaccine in English, Ukrainian and Russian

## Resources for members of the public

#### **Childhood Immunisations**

Information for parents in **English**, **Ukrainian** and **Russian** 

#### Schools programme

Information for parents about the 4 in 1 and MMR vaccine in **English**, **Ukrainian** and **Russian** 

Information about the HPV, Tdap and MenACWY vaccines will be added when available.

#### Influenza

Leaflet for at risk groups in <u>English</u>, <u>Ukrainian</u> and <u>Russian</u> Leaflet for pregnant women in <u>English</u>, <u>Ukrainian</u> and <u>Russian</u>

#### Pertussis vaccine

Leaflet in English, Ukrainian and Russian

#### **COVID-19 vaccine**

Information available in English, Ukrainian (with more being added soon) and Russian



#### **More information**

A dedicated webpage for health services information for people coming from Ukraine is available in **Ukrainian** and **Russian**.

Immunisation information will be added to the webpage available <u>here</u>.



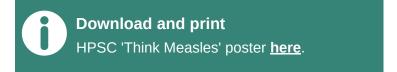






## **Think Measles**

This poster developed by the HPSC is a useful reminder to be aware of measles in both adults and children.



# Changes to chapters in the Immunisation Guidelines for childhood immunisations

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) have recently updated their recommendations regarding the administration of Rotavirus vaccine and other live vaccines when maternal Infliximab treatment has been given during pregnancy / breast feeding.

(Relevant chapters updated in the immunisation guidelines 25th March 2022)

#### Rotavirus Vaccine, NIAC now advises:

Infants of mothers receiving infliximab throughout the pregnancy and/or during breastfeeding, should not receive rotavirus vaccine.

Consideration may be given to administration of rotavirus vaccine if maternal infliximab did not extend beyond the first trimester in a non-breastfed infant.



#### Read Chapter 19 here.

Delay in giving rotavirus vaccine is a clinical decision dependant on the immunosuppressive effect of the mother's treatment during pregnancy.

The National Immunisation Office advises that mothers taking other immunomodulatory treatment in pregnancy should contact their specialist in regards to timing of rotavirus vaccine administration.

#### MMR and varicella vaccines, NIAC now advises:

In relation to Infliximab the National Immunisation Advisory Committee has also updated the measles, mumps, rubella and varicella chapters of the immunisation guidelines (25th March 2022).

NIAC have added new contraindications to MMR and varicella vaccines:

- · Children who are being breastfed by mothers taking infliximab.
- Children under 12 months of age born to mothers who received infliximab throughout their pregnancy should also not receive MMR (MMR under 12 months is sometimes given in an outbreak situation)



More information is available here.







# **COVID-19 Vaccination**

## **Updates from European Medicines Agency Safety Committee (PRAC meeting)**

There are two COVID-19 vaccine updates from a recent European Medicines Agency Safety Committee (PRAC meeting) which will be implemented in the product information shortly:

#### Spikevax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna):

based on a review of small number of cases, a warning will be added to the product information regarding. A few cases of capillary leak syndrome (CLS) flare-ups have been reported in the first days after vaccination with Spikevax. Healthcare professionals should be aware of signs and symptoms of CLS to promptly recognise and treat the condition. In individuals with a medical history of CLS, planning of vaccination should be made in collaboration with appropriate medical experts.

Note also that PRAC did not agree that there should be a contraindication to vaccination. There are also some literature reports of Covid-19 infection causing severe flare ups of CLS.

#### **COVID-19 vaccine Janssen®:**

following a review of a small number of cases, cutaneous small vessel vasculitis with cutaneous manifestations (inflammation of blood vessels in the skin which may result in a rash and bruising) will be added as an adverse reaction, frequency unknown.

Clinical guidance and other relevant documents are being updated with this information.

# Restarting the COVID-19 vaccination course after HSCT (Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation)

HSCT recipients should be viewed as "never immunised" and require re-immunisation post-transplant because the pre-transplant ablation of haematopoietic cells in the bone marrow eliminates the person's immune memory.

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) advise revaccination should be "delayed for 6 months after the transplant or for 12 months if transplant was for primary immunodeficiency".



Read Chapter 3 here.

Non-live vaccines such as COVID-19 vaccines can generally be initiated 6 to 12 months after HSCT.

## **COVAX** update

Those using the COVAX system can access the following content:



3b8. Restarting the COVID-19 vaccination course for HSCT Clients Unit | trailhead.com is available here.







# **COVID-19 Vaccination (cont. from page 2)**

#### **COVID-19** infection and vaccination

If a person in a group for whom an additional or booster dose is recommended and has had breakthrough COVID-19 infection after a completed primary vaccine course, the additional or booster dose should be delayed for the time-period recommended for their age group. Vaccination after breakthrough infection is advised to ensure an adequate immune response.

If someone has had an additional or booster vaccination and COVID-19 infection is confirmed shortly after vaccination, the vaccine remains valid and the dose does not need to be repeated.

#### 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

Vaccine	Comirnaty® Children's Formulation	Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech)	Spikevax® (Moderna)	COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen®	Nuvaxovid® (Novavax)
	Primary v	vaccination course (recommend	ed for people aged 5 years	and older)	
Age	5-11 years	≥12 years	≥30 years	≥18 years	≥18 years
Dose	0.2mls	0.3mls	0.5mls	0.5mls	0.5mls
Interval between 1st and 2nd dose	21 days	21-28 days	28 days	Not applicable	21 days
Interval since COVID-19 infection	At least 28 days	At least 28 days	At least 28 days	At least 28 days	At least 28 days
		Additional dose for im	munocompromised*		
Age	5-11 years	≥12 years	≥30 years	≥18 years	≥18 years***
Dose	0.2mls	0.3mls	0.5mls	0.5mls	0.5mls
Interval since last dose	28 days	2 months	2 months	2 months	2 months
Interval since COVID-19 infection	At least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 3 months
		Booster	dose**		
Age	5-11 years	≥12 years	≥30 years	≥18 years	≥18 years***
Dose	Not recommended	0.3mls	0.25mls	0.5mls	0.5mls
Interval since last dose	Not recommended	Age 12-15 years:  at least 6 months  if immunocompromised: at least 3 months  Age ≥16 years: at least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 5 months
Interval since COVID-19 infection	Not recommended	Age 12-15 years (including immunocompromised): at least 6 months  Age ≥16 years: at least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 3 months	At least 3 months



Check the Quick Reference Guide to COVID-19 Vaccines here.

## Recording COVID-19 vaccinations given abroad

For those of you using the COVAX system, a module is available to support you in recording vaccinations given abroad. This includes vaccinations given in Ukraine. All COVID-19 vaccines given in Ukraine are vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency or by WHO.



Clinical advice is available <u>here</u>. The training module for the COVAX system is available here.





<sup>\*</sup>An additional dose is recommended for immunocompromised people aged 5 years and older
\*\* A booster dose is recommended for people aged 12 years and older
\*\*<u>No not give</u> if the person received Nuvaxovid® as a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>st</sup> dose (homologous Nuvaxovid® primary course)



## Website

Visit our website www.immunisation.ie regularly for the most up to date information to support vaccinators and health professionals responding to queries.



Visit website here.

# **HSeLanD Vaccination Training Programme**

#### **COVID-19 vaccination training programme**

You can access updates to the National Immunisation Office COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme for

- · Children 5 to 11
- Pfizer.
- Moderna, and
- Janssen vaccine

through your HSeLanD account.

We would encourage you to log in and complete the updated content in each programme to refresh your knowledge and ensure you are up to date with your COVID-19 Vaccination Training.

## Other immunisation training programmes

You will also find other programmes developed by our office by logging into your account on <u>www.hseland.ie</u> selecting **courses** then selecting **clinical skills** and finally selecting **National Immunisation Office**.

Our programmes cover topics like "Communicating about vaccines", "HPV vaccine", the "Flu vaccine", "LAIV flu vaccine" and "vaccines in pregnancy" and "Storing and Managing Vaccines".



Visit HSeLanD here.

If you have any issues with the platform please contact HSeLand directly.



Contact HSeLanD here.

# Do you have gueries?

Clinical gueries from healthcare professionals can be directed to our dedicated email address



Send your query here.

Should vaccines be exposed to temperatures outside of parameters please contact a National Immunisation Office pharmacist immediately. Contacts include:

- Mariangela Toma: mobile 087 7575679
- · Cliona Kiersey: mobile 087 9915452
- Achal Gupta: mobile 087 4064810

Queries that are not clinical or technical cannot be answered by the National Immunisation Office



