After your COVID-19 Vaccine Vaxzevria (AstraZeneca)

Thank you for protecting yourself and others by getting the vaccine. Now that you have had your vaccine, we ask you to read this document carefully, so you know how you can expect to feel in the next few days and where to get more information.

Do read the COVID-19 vaccine information leaflet we gave you about the vaccine too.

We are also giving you a record of your vaccination today.
Please keep the record card safe.

What might happen in the next few days?

Some people who got the vaccine that you got today will:

- have tenderness, swelling, bruising, pain, redness and/or itching in the arm where they had the vaccine injection
- feel tired
- get a headache
- have muscle or joint pain
- have nausea, diarrhoea or vomiting
- get a fever (temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above).

There have been very rare cases of unusual blood clots with low platelets in the blood in the first few weeks after vaccination. Platelets help the blood to clot. You should seek prompt medical assistance and mention your recent vaccination if you:

- are breathless
- have pain in the chest or stomach
- have swelling or coldness in a leg
- get a severe or worsening headache (particularly 3 or more days after the vaccine)
- have blurred vision, confusion or seizures
- have persistent bleeding under the skin where there was no previous injury
- have many small bruises, reddish or purplish spots, or blood blisters under the skin.

There have been a very small number of cases of capillary leak syndrome in the first few days after vaccination. You should seek prompt medical assistance and mention your recent vaccination if you have rapid swelling of the limbs (arms and legs) or have sudden weight gain. You may also feel faint due to low blood pressure.

There have been a very small number of cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome after this vaccine.

Get urgent medical attention if you

- have double vision or difficulty moving your eyes.
- have difficulty swallowing, speaking or chewing.
- have coordination problems, feel unsteady or have difficulty walking.
- feel weakness in your arms, legs, chest or face.
- have tingling in your hands or feet.
- have problems with bladder control and bowel function.

As with all vaccines, you can report suspected side effects to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA). To report side effects to a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit **www.hpra.ie/report**

What if I have a fever or have aches and pains?

If you have a fever or you have flu-like aches and pains, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen to help. However, if your fever lasts more than 48 hours or if you are still concerned, please seek medical advice. Do not take ibuprofen if you are pregnant.

Do I need to do anything before I get the second dose of the vaccine?

When you are having your next and final dose of the vaccine, please tell the vaccination team if there have been any changes in your medical history.

Please bring your vaccination record card with you when going to get your second dose.

After vaccination

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine should protect you from the serious complications of COVID-19. You will have the best protection 15 days after your second dose. You will get your second dose between 4 and 12 weeks after your first dose.

There is a chance you might get COVID-19, even if you have the vaccine.

We do not know yet if having the vaccine stops you spreading the virus to others, so you must continue to follow public health advice:

- follow social distancing guidelines (keep two metres apart from others where possible)
- wear a face covering
- wash your hands regularly.

Have a question?

If you are unsure about anything, or have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine please ask your vaccinator today.

Visit **www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine** for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Side effects

Please report any side effects to the HPRA at **www.hpra.ie/report**.

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland