

Your COVID-19 boosters

Healthcare workers



**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Public Health
Advice

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Why should I get another COVID-19 vaccine?

If you work in healthcare, you are at high risk of being exposed to COVID-19.

It is important to keep up-to-date with your COVID-19 vaccines, even if you are already vaccinated or you have had COVID-19. This is because the protection you got from your previous vaccines or from a COVID-19 infection may weaken over time.

Boosters increase your protection from COVID-19 and also protect the people you care for every day.

How many COVID-19 vaccine doses should I have received?

The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) has recommended that:

- you should have received your first round of COVID-19 vaccines (usually 2 doses except for people who received the single dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine)
- you should then receive your first booster dose
- this should be followed by a second booster dose

When should I get a booster?

You should get your booster at least 4 months after your last COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have had COVID-19, you should wait at least 4 months after your symptoms started or after you tested positive before getting your booster.

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Which vaccine will I be offered for my booster?

Three adapted mRNA COVID-19 vaccines have been recommended as booster doses by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) in Ireland, following approval by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). These vaccines are:

- Comirnaty® BA.1 (Pfizer vaccine)
- Comirnaty® BA.4-5 (Pfizer vaccine)
- Spikevax® BA.1. (Moderna vaccine)

While all previous vaccines offer protection against COVID-19, the adapted vaccines are expected to give wider protection against COVID-19 variants.

What do we know about the safety of boosters?

We have less information on the safety of the second and subsequent COVID-19 boosters. However, many countries have given their populations multiple doses of COVID-19 vaccines. Studies show that there have not been any unexpected safety concerns so far for people who have received multiple boosters.

It is expected that the safety of the adapted vaccines will be similar to the previous vaccines. Safety of the vaccines will continue to be monitored by the EMA. All the adapted vaccines contain Trometamol and so you cannot have these if you have had anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) to Trometamol.

Are booster vaccines licensed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)?

Second or subsequent boosters of mRNA vaccines have not been approved by the EMA.

NIAC recommendations can vary from EMA recommendations due to local data and considerations. In Ireland we follow NIAC advice.

Can I get my COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as my flu vaccine?

Yes. If you are due to get a flu vaccine, you can get any COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. You do not have to wait to have your COVID-19 vaccine with your flu vaccine – you can get your COVID-19 vaccine now.

Further information

You can access important information about COVID-19 vaccines on [hse.ie/covid19vaccine](https://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine) or call our team in HSELive on 1800 700 700. They're open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

You can also talk to your GP, nurse, pharmacist or vaccinator.

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