



COVID-19 vaccine

Important information about the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

Easy to Read guide

Version 4
September 2022



What to expect after your Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine



Like all medicines, vaccines can cause side effects.

There are different side effects for different COVID-19 vaccines.



Most of these will not make you very sick and will not last too long.



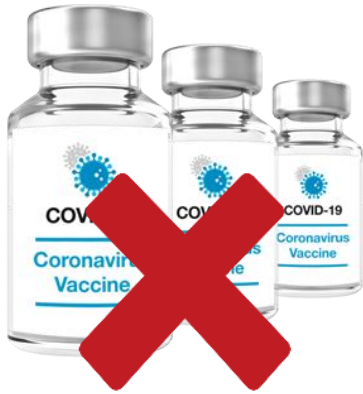
Not everyone gets side effects after a vaccine.



In this leaflet, we will tell you about the side effects of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

We will tell you who should not get this vaccine.

Who should not get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?



You should not get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine if you have had a bad reaction to any of the ingredients.

This includes an ingredient called polyethylene glycol.

You can find out about the ingredients here:

www.hse.ie/covid19VaccinePIL



You should not get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine if you have been told by your doctor that you should not have this vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine.



You should not get the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine if you had a bad reaction to the first dose of this COVID-19 vaccine or the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.



You should not get this COVID-19 vaccine if you have had a severe allergic reaction to Trometamol.

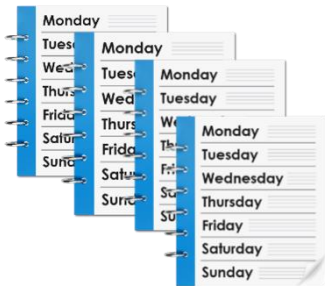
This is an ingredient in dye used in MRI studies.



Talk to your doctor if you had a bad reaction to any vaccine or medication before.



Talk to your Doctor if you had myocarditis or pericarditis after a COVID-19 vaccine.



Talk to your doctor if you recently had the monkeypox vaccine.

You need to wait 4 weeks before you get a COVID-19 vaccine because there could be a risk of myocarditis.

What are the side effects of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine?



Some people get side effects from the COVID-19 vaccine.



Some of the side effects of the Pfizer vaccine are:

- soreness, swelling, redness, or itching where you had the injection
- swollen lymph glands – this is more common after the booster dose
- sore knees, elbows, or other joints
- pain in the arm where you got the vaccine
- sore muscles
- sore head
- feeling sick or getting sick
- Diarrhoea
- not feeling hungry





- feeling tired, having no energy, or feeling weak
- chills or fever - a high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more
- feeling itchy or having a rash
- finding it hard to sleep
- sweating a lot or night sweats
- feeling unwell.



Some people get other side effects.

These do not happen often.

Rarely people may have:

- weakness in the muscles on one side of your face
- allergic reaction that can cause hives or swelling of the face.



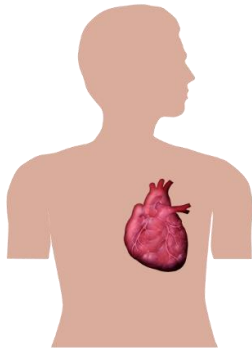
It is extremely rare for someone to have a severe allergic reaction to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Your vaccinator is trained to treat you if you have a serious allergic reaction.



Extremely rarely, a person may have:

- a skin reaction that causes red spots or patches. This looks like a bulls-eye
- a lot of swelling of the arm or leg where you got your vaccine
- tingling or prickling sensation, or loss of sensation in some part of the body
- swelling in your face. This can happen to people who have had injections, called cosmetic fillers, on their face.



Very rarely, a person may get a problem with their heart or lining of their heart after getting the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

This is called Myocarditis or Pericarditis.

Myocarditis and pericarditis are more common in men under the age of 30.

They are more common after the second primary vaccine dose.

The risk of these side effects appears to be lower after the first booster.

The symptoms of myocarditis and pericarditis are:

- being out of breath
- fast heartbeat
- chest pain.

Contact your doctor straight away if you have any of these symptoms.

Where can I get more information about the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine?



You can get more information online at www.hse.ie/covid19Vaccinmaterials

You can read the patient information leaflet here: www.hse.ie/covid19VaccinePIL



You can phone the HSE Live helpline.
The number is
1800 700 700

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This leaflet will be updated as new information becomes available.

For the latest information on this Covid-19 vaccine, go to [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)