

COVID-19 vaccine

Important information about the Novavax (Nuvaxovid) vaccine

Easy to Read Guide

Version 1

July 2022



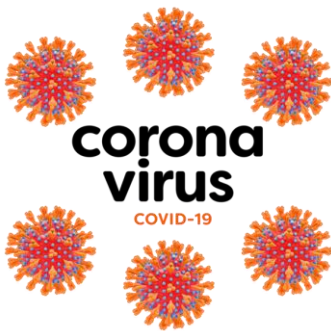
Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



What is this information about?



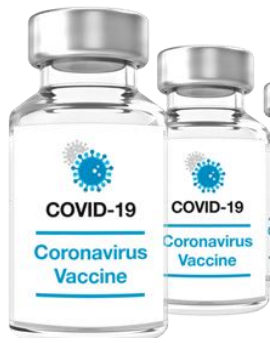
This leaflet tells you about a COVID-19 vaccine made by Novavax.
This vaccine is called Nuvaxovid.



This leaflet will tell you what COVID-19 is and why vaccines are important.



It will tell you who should and should not get the Nuvaxovid vaccine.



This leaflet will tell you how many doses of the Nuvaxovid vaccine you need.



It will tell you about the safety and the side effects of the vaccine.

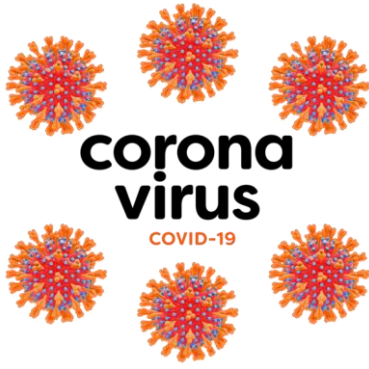


It will tell you where you can find more information about the Nuvaxovid vaccine.

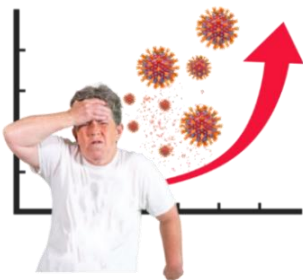


Please read this leaflet carefully.

You can also talk to your doctor or pharmacist about the vaccine.



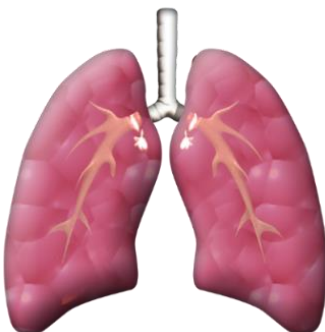
What is COVID-19?



COVID-19 is a sickness that has spread around the world.
It can be a very serious sickness.



COVID-19 spreads in the air in drops when people cough or sneeze.
It can spread if people touch surfaces where the drops have landed and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth.



COVID-19 affects your lungs, and sometimes other parts of your body.



If you have COVID-19, you may:

- have a temperature
- have chills
- have a dry cough
- feel tired.



You might not feel as well as you usually do.
You might feel like you have the flu or a cold.



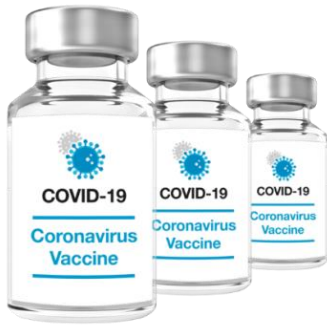
It can take 2 weeks before you show signs of COVID-19.

These signs are called symptoms.



If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, you should stay away from other people.

Visit www.hse.ie/covid19 for advice.



What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

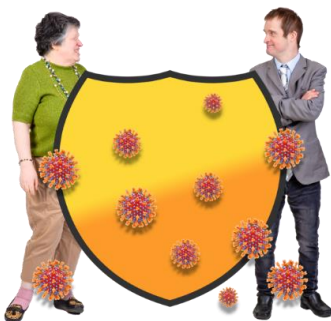


COVID-19 vaccines help your body to protect you from COVID-19.



The vaccines stop you from getting very ill from COVID-19.

The vaccines cut down the number of people that die from COVID-19.



Vaccines teach your immune system how to protect you from diseases.

It is safer for your immune system to learn from the vaccine than from getting COVID-19.



Who should get the vaccine?



Find out who can get a COVID-19 vaccine at hse.ie/covid19vaccine



The HSE, the World Health Organisation, and the Department of Health think you should get a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are offered one.



You will need to read the Patient Information Leaflet before you get your vaccine.
You can find the Patient Information Leaflet on www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL



You can talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before you get the vaccine.



It is your choice to get the vaccine or not.
If you decide to get the vaccine, you will give your consent.
This means you agree to get the vaccine.



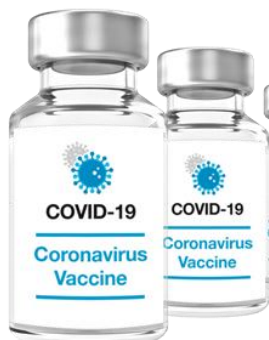
The COVID-19 vaccines are free.
You do not have to pay.



How many doses of the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine will I need?



Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines. Some people cannot have or do not want to have an mRNA vaccine. These people may be offered the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine instead.



If you have never had a COVID-19 vaccine, you need 2 doses of the Nuvaxovid vaccine. You get the second dose at least 21 days after your first dose. This is called a round of vaccines.



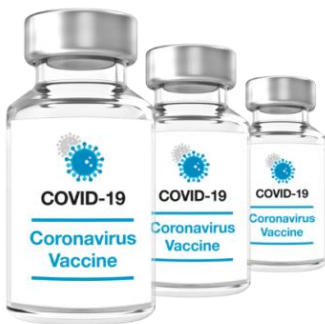
If you have had one dose of a Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZenca COVID-19 vaccine, you can get Nuvaxovid for your second dose. You must wait 28 days to get your second dose.



I have a weak immune system. Do I need an extra dose?



mRNA vaccines are the recommended vaccines for extra doses.



If you cannot get or do not want to get an mRNA vaccine, you can be given Nuvaxovid as an extra dose.



You must be over 18 years of age.



You should get an extra dose at least 2 months after your first round of vaccines.



You will still need a booster dose after your extra dose.



If you have a weak immune system and you get Nuvaxovid for your first 2 doses, you do not need an extra dose.



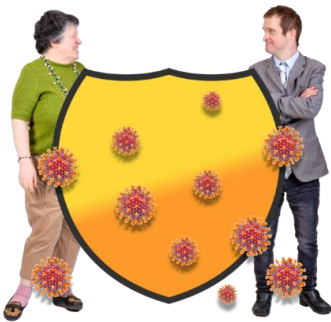
The National Immunisation Advisory Council in Ireland has agreed these plans for the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine.



Having a booster dose



If you get a Pfizer, Moderna, Astrazeneca or Janssen vaccine for your first round of vaccines, you should get a booster dose.



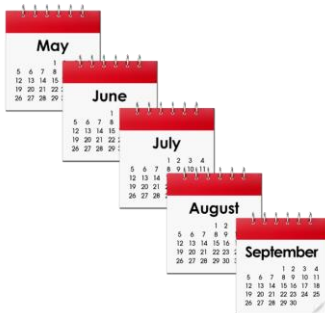
The booster dose will give you better protection from COVID-19.



Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are recommended for the booster dose.
If you cannot have or do not want to have an mRNA vaccine, you can get Nuvaxovid.



You must be over 18 years of age.



You should get a booster dose at least 5 months after finishing a round of COVID-19 vaccines.



At this time, no booster dose is recommended for people who had Nuvaxovid for their first round of COVID-19 vaccines.



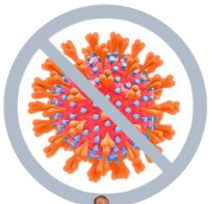
The National Immunisation Advisory Council in Ireland has agreed these plans for the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine.



Why is it important to get the COVID-19 vaccine?



When you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you are protecting yourself from getting very ill or dying from COVID-19.



You could be protecting other people from getting COVID-19 too.



I already had COVID-19, do I still need to get the vaccine?



Yes.

Even if you have already had COVID-19, you could still get it again.



The vaccine will cut your risk of getting COVID-19 again.



Even if you do get COVID-19 again, the vaccine means you might not be as ill.

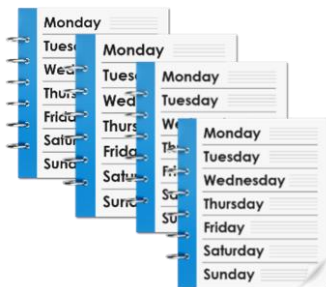


I have COVID-19 now, should I get the vaccine?



No.

You should wait until you recover from COVID-19.



You should wait 4 weeks if you are due to get your first round of vaccines.



You should wait 3 months if you are due to get an extra dose or a booster dose.



Can I get this COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?



Yes.

You can get the Nuvaxovid vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine.



However, you should leave at least two weeks between this vaccine and any other vaccine.



Who will give me the COVID-19 vaccine?



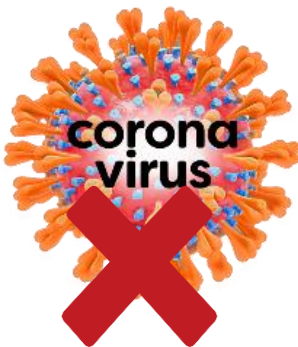
The person that gives you the COVID-19 vaccine is called a vaccinator.



Vaccinators are trained by the HSE to give COVID-19 vaccines.



Can the vaccine give me COVID-19?



No.

The COVID-19 vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.



You may catch COVID-19 before getting your vaccine.

You may not know you have the symptoms until after you get the vaccine.



If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 after your vaccine, stay away from other people.

If you have a fever which starts more than 2 days after your vaccine, or lasts longer than 2 days, stay away from other people.

Visit www.hse.ie/covid19 for advice.



Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I have a high temperature?



No.

You should not get the Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine if you have a high temperature.



You can get the vaccine when you are feeling better and do not have a high temperature.



Should I get the vaccine if pregnant, trying to get pregnant or breastfeeding?



The mRNA vaccines are recommended for pregnant women.



If you cannot have an mRNA vaccine, you might be given Nuvaxovid.

Talk to your doctor or midwife.

We have less information about this vaccine for pregnant women.



You can get this vaccine if you are trying to get pregnant or breastfeeding.



Who should not get this COVID-19 vaccine?



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



This includes an ingredient called polysorbate 80.

You can find out about the ingredients here:

www.hse.ie/covid19Vaccine



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



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



Your vaccinator can answer any questions you have about the vaccine.



What are the side effects of the Nuvaxovid vaccine?



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

Most do not last long.

Some side effects are seen more often after the second dose.



Some of the side effects of the Nuvaxovid vaccine are feeling tired or unwell, headache, feeling or getting sick, pain in your muscles or joints.



You might have pain, soreness, swelling and redness in your arm where you got the vaccine.



Around 1 in 10 people will get a fever and chills.

They might get pain in their hands and feet.



Some people get other side effects.

These do not happen often.



It is not common, but some people may have:

- swelling of the lymph glands
- high blood pressure for a few days after the injection.



It is not common, but some people may get:

- a rash
- itchy or red skin
- hives.



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



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



The Nuvaxovid vaccine has had the same tests as other vaccines.
This vaccine is new and we have less information about its safety.



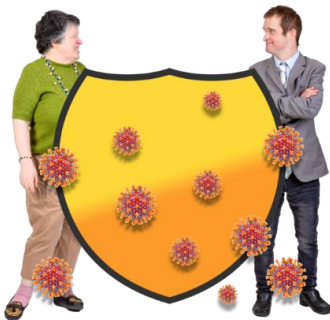
As more people get this vaccine, the HSE will have more information to share.



How long does it take for this vaccine to work?



This Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine works 7 days after your second dose of the vaccine.



Most people who get this COVID-19 vaccine will have immunity and be protected from COVID-19.



You may still get COVID-19 after you get this vaccine, but your symptoms may not be as bad.



How long does immunity last from the vaccine?



We do not know yet how long immunity will last after your first round of vaccines with Nuvaxovid.



We do not know how long immunity will last if you have Nuvaxovid as a booster dose.



There are more tests happening to help us find out how long immunity lasts.



If I get side effects from the Nuvaxovid vaccine, who should I tell?



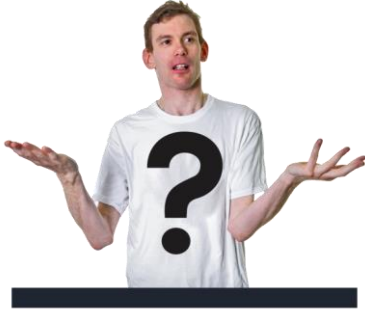
If you get side effects after you get a COVID-19 vaccine, you can report this to your GP or nurse.



All side effects can be reported to the Health Products Regulatory Products by you.
You can find out more at
www.hpra.ie/report



Your doctor or nurse can make a report for you.



How can I get more information?



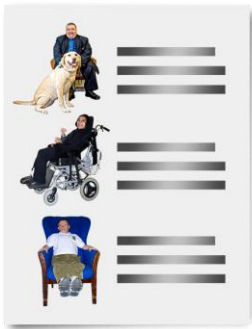
You can read more about the vaccines on www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine



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



How will my personal information be used?



We need to get some personal information from you to make sure we give the COVID-19 vaccine to you in the right way.



The HSE have to protect your information and keep it private.

This is called General Data Protection Regulation.

You can find out more here:

www.hse.ie/eng/gdpr

