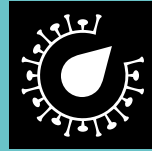


Your COVID-19 Boosters in pregnancy



**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Public Health
Advice

Why should I get my next COVID-19 vaccine?

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 the protection you got from a COVID-19 infection may weaken over time
- you may be at higher risk of severe disease if you get COVID-19

COVID-19 is a risk to your health and the health of your baby. Most people who get COVID-19 when pregnant have mild to moderate symptoms. However, you're more likely to get very unwell and need treatment in intensive care than those who are not pregnant. The virus may also cause complications for your baby, including premature labour or stillbirth.

Children under the age of 1 are at higher risk of hospitalisation and severe illness from COVID-19. Young babies whose mothers were vaccinated in pregnancy, were less likely to need hospital care with COVID-19.

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy gives you, and your baby, the best possible protection from COVID-19.

How many COVID-19 vaccine doses do I need?

If you've already had a first round (usually 2 doses) and a single booster dose before you became pregnant, you can get your second booster at or after 16 weeks of your pregnancy (at least 4 months after your first booster).

If you received your first booster in your current pregnancy, then a second booster dose is not needed.

If you have not already had these vaccinations, you can get your first round of COVID-19 vaccines or first booster at any stage of pregnancy.

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 before getting your booster.

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.

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 other vaccines?

Yes. If you are due to get a flu or pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. Flu vaccines are usually offered between October and April.

The pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine is recommended between 16 and 36 weeks of pregnancy and is available throughout the year, usually from your GP.

Further information

You can read more on 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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