Information for healthcare workers
Your COVID-19 vaccine booster dose

You should get a booster dose if you are a healthcare worker who has completed a COVID-19 vaccine course already. This is particularly important if you work directly with patients.

This is recommended for you by the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC).

Why should I get a booster dose of the vaccine?

Healthcare workers may be at increased risk of being exposed to COVID-19 through their work.

We hope a booster dose will give you better protection from COVID-19 and, so, help protect your patients, family, colleagues and others in your community.

Which vaccine can I get?

If you are 30 years or older we are offering you a single dose of the Comirnaty®/Pfizer BioNTech or Spikevax®/Moderna vaccine. If you are 29 years or younger we will offer you a single dose of the Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech) vaccine. These are mRNA vaccines.

You can have this vaccine even if you already received a different vaccine.

We will give you an information leaflet on this vaccine. It has important information, please read it. You can also find it on hse.ie/covid19vaccine/

What if I am pregnant?

NIAC has recommended boosters for all healthcare workers, including those who are pregnant. If you are pregnant, you should talk to your Obstetrician, GP (Doctor) or midwife before getting your COVID-19 vaccine.

What protection will I have if I get a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine?

We don't yet know what level of protection you will have against COVID-19 after a booster dose. It is important that you continue to follow all public health and infection prevention and control advice to protect yourself and your patients against COVID-19.

When should I get a booster dose of the vaccine?

You should get a booster dose at least five months after finishing a course of COVID-19 vaccine.

You don't need a booster dose at this time if you:

- have already received an additional vaccine dose because you are immunocompromised
- have already received a booster dose because you are aged 60 or over

If you have had COVID-19 since you were vaccinated, wait for six months after your infection before you get a booster dose.

What do we know about the safety of a booster dose?

We have less information on the safety of the booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Some countries are giving booster doses. Studies on people who got a booster dose haven't shown any serious side effects. We don't yet know if there is a risk of the very rare side effect of myocarditis and pericarditis after a booster dose.

Is the booster dose of vaccine licensed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA)?

The EMA has approved an additional dose of the same mRNA vaccine. The National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC), in Ireland, has also recommended that you can get any mRNA vaccine as a booster dose, regardless of which vaccine you have received. For example, if you got the AstraZeneca vaccine, you will now be offered a booster dose of either Moderna or Pfizer, unless there is a medical reason you cannot have an mRNA vaccine. This is recommended by NIAC but not yet approved by the EMA. Visit ema.europa.eu for more information.

Can I get the booster dose of vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine or other vaccines?

Yes, you can get the COVID-19 booster vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine or other vaccines. We strongly recommend you get the flu vaccine if you have not had it already.

Further information

You can read more about the vaccines on hse.ie/covid19vaccine/
You can also talk to your GP, nurse, pharmacist or vaccinator.

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