

COVID-19 Vaccine

Important information about the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine

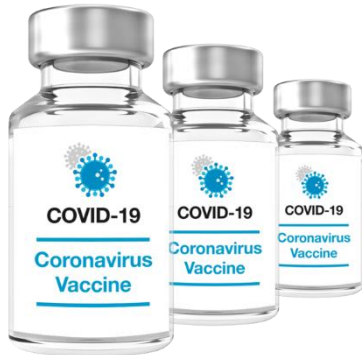
Easy read guide

Version 2

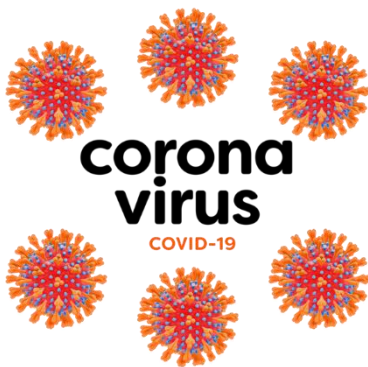


Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

About this leaflet



This leaflet is about the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

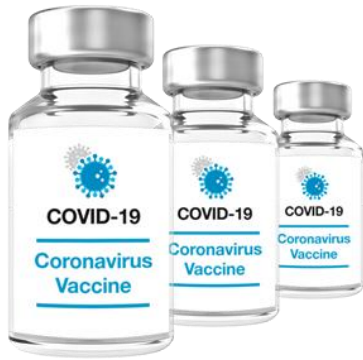


This leaflet will tell you what COVID-19 is.



This leaflet will tell you:

- who should get the COVID-19 vaccine first
- when they will get the COVID-19 vaccine
- where they will get the COVID-19 vaccine.



This leaflet will tell you:

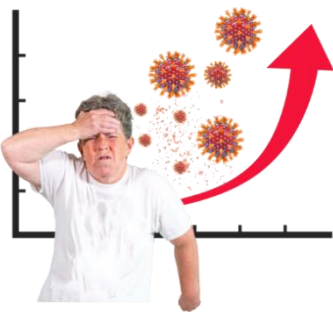
- why it is important to get the COVID-19 vaccine
- who should not get the COVID-19 vaccine
- the side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine
- safety of the COVID-19 vaccine
- where you can get more information on the COVID-19 vaccine.



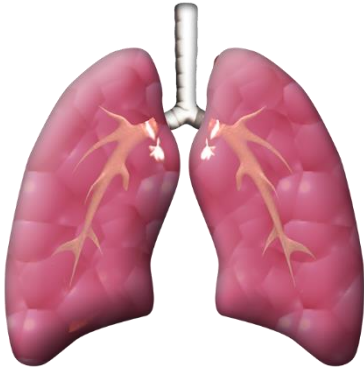
This will help you to make an informed decision to get the COVID-19 vaccine or not.

The choice is yours.

What is COVID-19?



Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a sickness that has spread around the world.



COVID-19 affects your lungs.
It is a very serious sickness.



COVID-19 can make it hard
for you to breathe.



The most common symptoms
of COVID-19 are:

- you may feel hot
with a temperature of
38 degrees Celsius or more
- you may have a cough
- you may have difficulty
breathing
- you may notice a change in your
taste or your smell.



COVID-19 symptoms are like
flu and cold symptoms.



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



If you have any symptoms you will need to self-isolate in your room.



Your doctor will arrange for you to have a COVID-19 test.



You can get more information at www.hse.ie/coronavirus



You can telephone
the HSE Live helpline
The number is
1850 24 1850.

Who is most at risk of COVID-19?

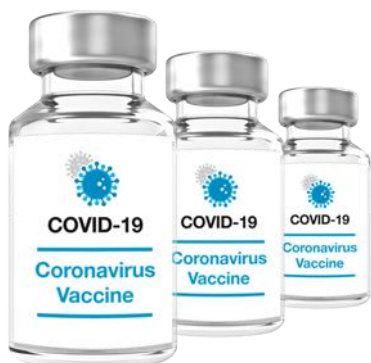


Older people who live in residential
homes are at higher risk
of getting COVID-19.

This is because COVID-19
spreads very quickly when people live
together.

Health-care workers
the people who work with you
are at high risk of getting COVID-19.

What is the COVID-19 vaccine?

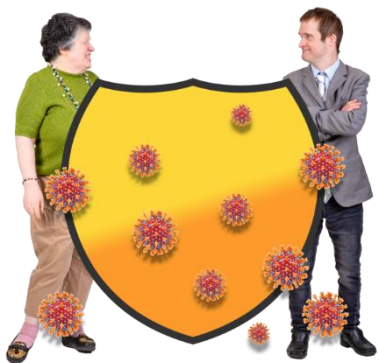


The COVID-19 vaccine helps your body
to protect you from COVID-19.



The COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you from COVID-19 by making antibodies.

Antibodies help your body fight infections like hepatitis and whooping cough.



Antibodies will help your body fight COVID-19. This is called immunity.

Who will get the COVID-19 vaccine first?



You can get the COVID-19 vaccine first if you are 65 years or older and live in a residential home.

Health-care workers in your residential home can also get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The HSE think you should get the COVID -19 vaccine when it is offered to you.



Other groups of people will be asked if they would like to have the COVID-19 vaccine.

These are listed as priority groups. You can see the list of priority groups here:

www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine



The vaccine will not cost you any money.

Who will give me my COVID-19 vaccine?

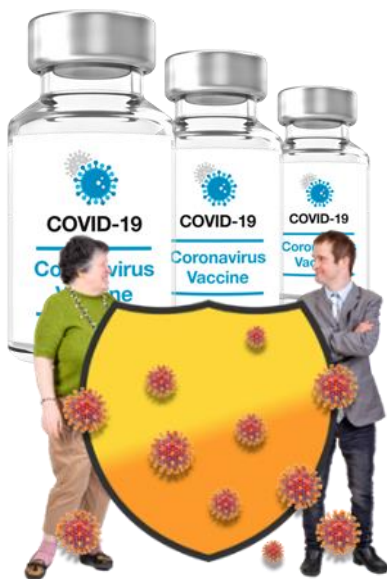


The person who will give you your COVID-19 vaccine is called a vaccinator.

This person will be a

- nurse
- doctor
- pharmacist
- advanced paramedic

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



When you get the COVID-19 vaccine you are protecting yourself from getting COVID-19.

When you get the COVID-19 vaccine you could be protecting other people from getting COVID-19.

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



Yes.

You can get the COVID-19 vaccine if you have tested positive for COVID-19.

You can get the COVID-vaccine
4 weeks after you first notice symptoms
or
4 weeks after you tested positive for
COVID-19.

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



No.

You should not get
the COVID-19 vaccine
until you get better from COVID-19.

You can get the COVID-19 vaccine
4 weeks after you first notice symptoms
or
4 weeks after you tested positive for
COVID-19.

Where will I get my COVID-19 vaccine?



You will get your COVID-19 vaccine in your residential home or close to where you live.



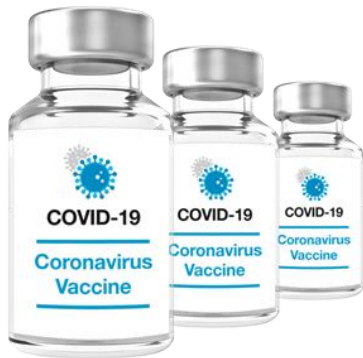
Staff in your residential home will get their COVID-19 vaccine given to them there too or close to where they work.



People who are next on the priority list will be told when by the HSE.

You do not need to contact the HSE.

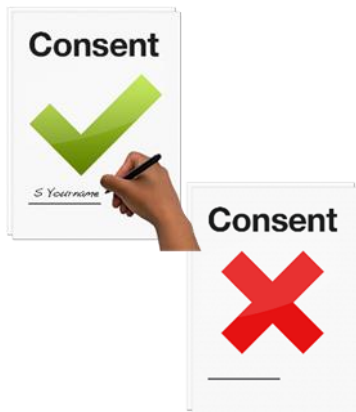
What is the COVID-19 vaccine called?



The COVID-19 vaccine is called Comirnaty.
It is made by Pfizer/BioNTech.

This vaccine will help your body make antibodies to fight COVID-19.

How will the COVID-19 vaccine be given to me?



You will be given a patient information leaflet on the COVID-19 vaccine.

You will be asked to sign a consent form if you are happy to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

You can say yes.
You can say no.
The choice is yours.



Your COVID-19 vaccine will be given to you by a nurse or doctor or pharmacist or an advanced paramedic in your residential home or near where you live.

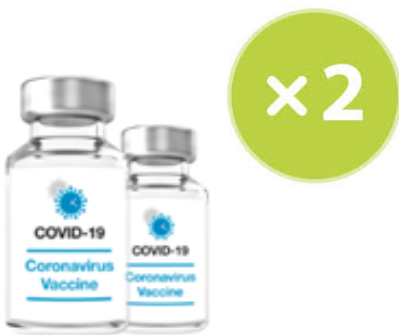


Your COVID-19 vaccine is given to you as an injection.

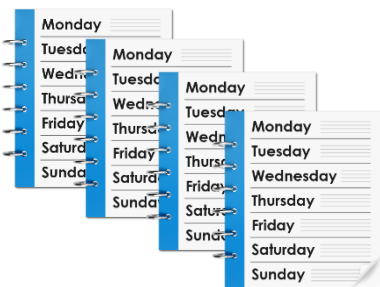


The injection is given in your upper arm.

How many doses of COVID-19 vaccine do I need to get?

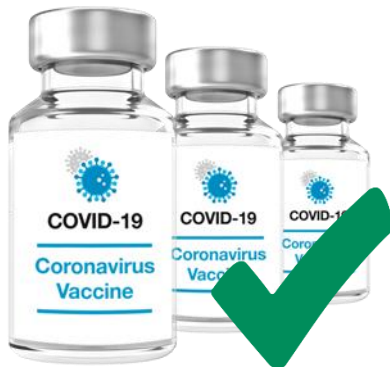


You will need 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.



The 2nd dose of your COVID-19 vaccine will be given to you 28 days which is 4 weeks after you get the first dose.

Is the COVID-19 vaccine safe?



The COVID-19 vaccine has been tested by scientists to see if it is safe.

A scientist is a person who tries to understand how our world works.

It has been tested on a lot of people.



The COVID-19 vaccine has been approved to be used here in Ireland by the European Medicines Agency.

You can find out more here:

www.ema.europa.eu

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

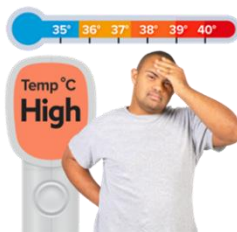
Some people get side effects from
The COVID-19 vaccine.
Most of these are mild to moderate.
Not everyone will get them.



When more people get
the COVID-19 vaccine
we will know more about
the side effects.

Some of these side effects are:

- soreness and swelling
where you had your injection
- sore knees elbows or knees or
other bone joints
- feeling sick
- sore head and sore muscles
- feeling tired
- fever or a high temperature of
38 degrees Celsius or more.





Some people get other side effects. These do not happen often they are:

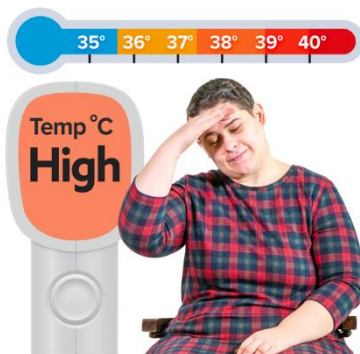
- itchy on your upper arm where you get your injection
- swollen lymph glands in your neck
- not being able to sleep
- weakness in the muscles on one side of your face
this is called Bell's palsy.



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

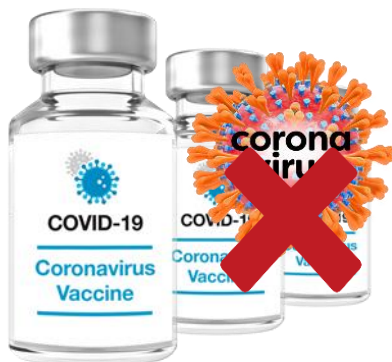
Your vaccinator is trained to treat you if you have a serious allergic reaction.

What if I get a high temperature after I get the COVID-19 vaccine?



If you get a high temperature after you get the COVID-19 vaccine it normally goes away in 2 days. If it does not go away you can tell your nurse.

Can the COVID-19 vaccine give me COVID-19?



No.

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

If you get a high temperature more than 2 days after you get the COVID-19 vaccine you will need to self-isolate. Your doctor will arrange for you to have a COVID-19 test.

Who should not get the COVID-19 vaccine?



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

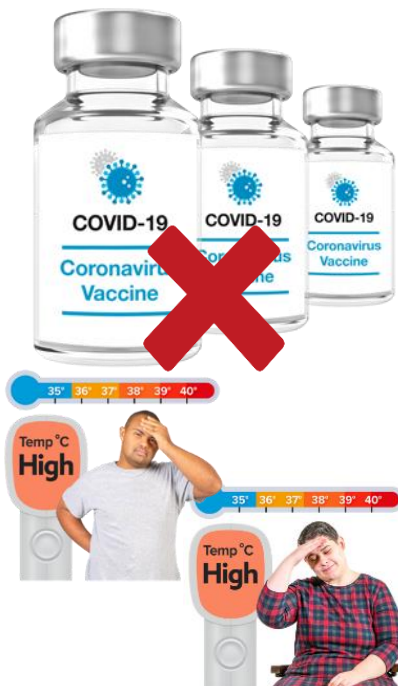
You can find out about the ingredients here:

www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL

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

The vaccinator who is giving you the COVID-19 vaccine will answer any questions you have.

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



No.

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

You can get the COVID-19 vaccine when you are feeling better and do not have a high temperature.

Is it safe to get the vaccine for people who are pregnant or breastfeeding?



The COVID-19 vaccine has not been tested on many people who are pregnant.

Scientists have **not** said it is unsafe for people who are pregnant to get the COVID-19 vaccine.



People who are pregnant or breastfeeding can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

They should talk to their doctor first before they decide to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

How long does it take for the COVID-19 vaccine to work?

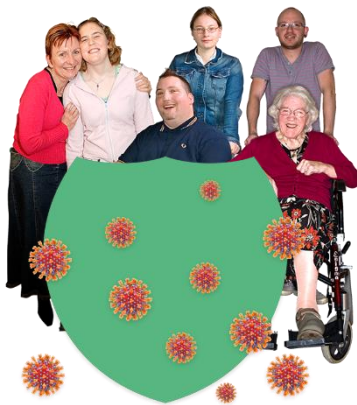


The COVID-19 vaccine will take 7 days to work after you get your 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

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

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

Does the COVID-19 vaccine work for everyone?



Scientists have said the COVID-19 vaccine works for most people who get it.

If I get side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine who should I tell?



If you get side effects after you get your COVID-19 vaccine you can report them to your doctor or nurse.



All side effects can be reported to the Health Products Regulatory Authority
You can find out more here:

www.hpra.ie/report

Your doctor or nurse can make a report for you.

How long will I be protected from COVID-19 after I get the COVID-19 vaccine?



We do not know how long you will be protected from COVID-19 after you get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Scientists are still trying to find this out.

Can I spread COVID-19 to other people after I get the COVID-19 vaccine?



We do not know yet if you can still spread COVID-19 after you get the COVID-19 vaccine.



It is still very important to

- wash your hands
- wear a mask or face covering
- stay 2 metres apart.

How will my personal information be used?



We need to get some personal information from you to make sure we give the 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

Where can I get further information about the COVID-19 vaccine?



You can get further information online at
www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine

You can read the patient information leaflet here:
www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL



You can telephone
HSE Live helpline.
The number is
1850 24 1850.

This easy to read booklet was proof-read by;

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