

Information on getting the COVID-19 Vaccine

Benefits of getting the vaccine:

- The COVID-19 vaccine will offer protection from COVID-19. If you catch COVID19 after vaccination you should be protected from the serious illness the virus can sometimes cause.
- The vaccine is free.
- If you have already had COVID-19 you still need to get the vaccine because you could become infected with the virus again.
- The HSE strongly recommends that you get the vaccine.

How will I get the vaccine?

- The HSE will let you know when it is your turn.
- You will get the vaccine as an injection in your upper arm. It will only take a few minutes.
- You will need two doses, at least 4 weeks apart.
- The person who will give you the vaccine will be a nurse, doctor or someone who is specially trained.
- Your vaccinator will answer any questions that you may have and will provide you with an aftercare advice leaflet and vaccine record card.

Possible side effects:

- Like all vaccines, the COVID-19 vaccine can cause side effects in some people.

- More than one in ten people are sore in their arm where the injection is given or get muscle pain and fever. These symptoms are mild and do not last long.
- A few people feel unwell after getting the vaccine.
- Rarely people can get a temporary one-sided facial drooping (Bell's palsy). This has happened in less than one in 1000 cases.
- Very rarely there is a serious allergic reaction to the vaccine. This has happened in less than one in 100,000 cases and the vaccinator is trained to treat such a reaction.

Do Not Get the Vaccine if:

- you currently have COVID-19. You will need to wait until it has been 4 weeks since you noticed first symptoms or tested positive.
- have a fever (temperature of 38 degrees or higher), wait until you feel better.
- have a serious allergic reaction to any of the ingredients in the vaccine or have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine.

Full vaccine details are available here:

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/product-information/comirnaty-epar-product-information_en.pdf