

The COVID-19 vaccine is here, and the HSE is starting to roll it out across the country.

The COVID-19 vaccine will offer you protection from COVID-19 and should also protect you from the serious complications of the illness. If people are vaccinated, it should reduce the numbers who become seriously ill or even die from COVID-19 in our community.



Roll-out plans

Right now, vaccine supplies are limited, so we need to vaccinate the most vulnerable people first. Frontline healthcare workers and people 65 and older living in long-term care facilities are being offered a vaccine first. This is underway - over the next few weeks and by the end of February 2021, tens of thousands of doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be given in healthcare and long-term care facilities all over the country.

Other groups will be offered a vaccine as it becomes available. Read more about priority groups at gov.ie



Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine

It's important to get information on vaccines from a source that you can trust.

Visit hse.ie/covid19vaccine for expert information on

- what the COVID-19 vaccine is
- who will be offered it first, why and where to access it
- why it is important to get the vaccine when it is offered to you
- who should not get it and who should delay getting it
- vaccine safety and side effects

Before you're asked to consent to getting the vaccine, you will be given a HSE information booklet and the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet. You can also read them hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials



Vaccine safety and effectiveness

Worldwide, vaccines save at least 2 to 3 million lives each year, and protect many more from lifelong illnesses. Vaccines are tested for safety and effectiveness before they can be used. The HSE will only offer you a vaccine if it meets the required standards of safety and effectiveness, like the vaccine that is being offered right now. 95% of people (16 and older) who were given this vaccine in trials, were protected from COVID-19. It is just as effective in older people, including people aged 65 and over. All COVID-19 vaccines will be carefully monitored over time and updated safety data and information will be published and shared by the HSE.



Protection from COVID-19

For now, though, we're all still at risk of COVID-19. Ireland is at Level 5 restrictions and we all need to stay at home to protect ourselves and the people we love.

Continue to:

- wash your hands properly and often
- practice social distancing
- cover coughs and sneezes
- download the COVIDTracker App at covidtracker.ie

If you have symptoms of COVID-19, please self-isolate. Stay in your room and call a GP for advice or to arrange a free test.

If you are a close contact of a positive case, you live with someone with symptoms - restrict your movements. Stay at home for 14 days, even if you feel well. You could be developing COVID-19 and anyone you meet during this time is at risk.

Our actions now are more important than ever. Thank you for playing your part.

For factual, expert information you can trust, visit HSE.ie

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