

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://HSE.ie)

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