



# COVID-19 Vaccine

## Important information about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Vaxzevria

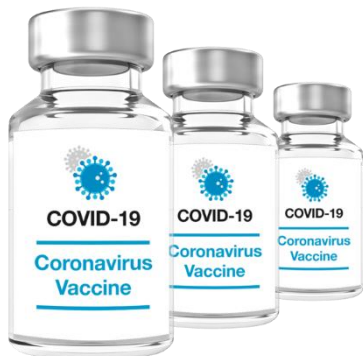
### Easy read guide

Version 4

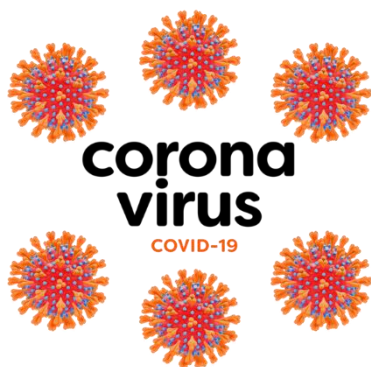
14 July 2021



## About this leaflet



This leaflet is about the AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Vaxzevria

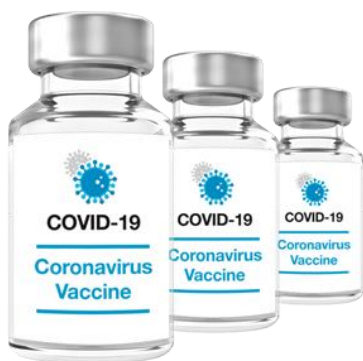


This leaflet will tell you what COVID-19 is.



This leaflet will tell you:

- who should get the COVID-19 Vaccine and why
- when they will get the COVID-19 Vaccine



This leaflet will tell you:

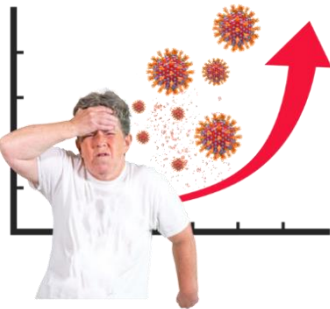
- why it is important to get the COVID-19 Vaccine
- who should not get the COVID-19 Vaccine
- the side effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine
- safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine
- where you can get more information on the COVID-19 Vaccine.



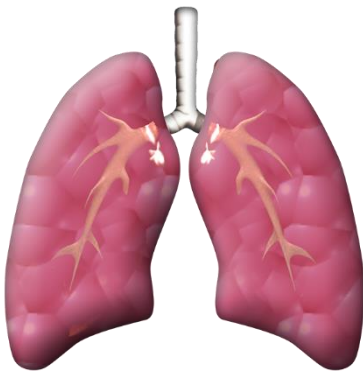
This will help you to make an informed decision to get the COVID-19 Vaccine or not.

The choice is yours.

## What is COVID-19?



Coronavirus known as 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 GP or Doctor will arrange for you to have a COVID-19 test.



You can get more information at [www.hse.ie/coronavirus](http://www.hse.ie/coronavirus)



You can telephone the HSE Live helpline  
The number is  
1800 700 700.

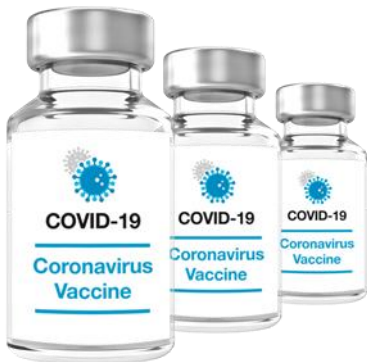
## Who is most at risk of COVID-19?



Older people and people with certain health conditions are at higher risk from COVID-19.

Other people can get sick with COVID-19.

# What is the COVID-19 Vaccine?

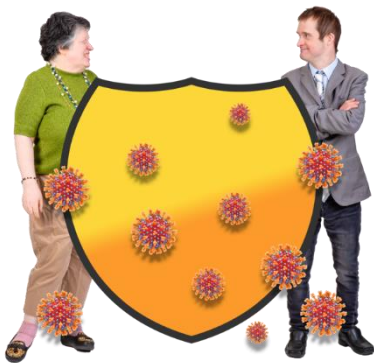


The COVID-19 Vaccine helps your body to protect you from COVID-19.



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 should get the COVID-19 Vaccine?

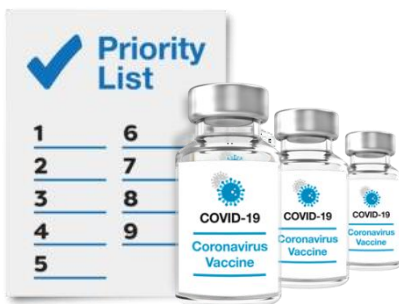


The HSE  
The World Health Organization and  
The Department of Health think you  
should get the COVID-19 Vaccine  
when it is offered to you.

People will be asked if they would like  
to have the COVID-19 Vaccine as  
supplies arrive in Ireland.

People will be notified of their Vaccine  
in groups.

You can see the list of groups here:  
[www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine](http://www.gov.ie/covid19vaccine)



When it is your turn we will let you  
know  
how to get your Vaccine.

You can read the patient information  
leaflet before you get the COVID-19  
Vaccine.

You can find the manufacturer's patient  
information leaflet  
here: [www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL)



The COVID-19 Vaccine will not cost  
you any money.

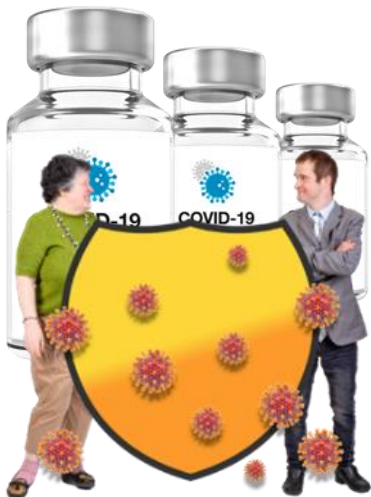
## Who will give me my COVID-19 Vaccine?



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

Your vaccinator is the person who gives you your COVID-19 vaccine. They are trained by the HSE to give COVID-19 vaccines.

## 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-19 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?

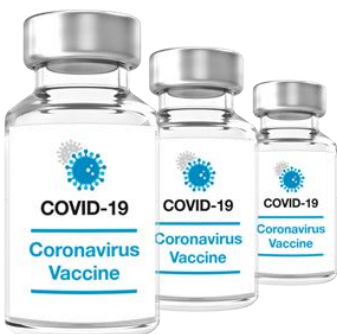


No.

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.

## What is the COVID-19 Vaccine called?



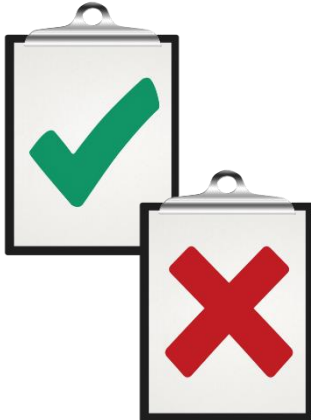
The COVID-19 Vaccine that you are being offered is called

Vaxzevria

It is made by a company called AstraZeneca.

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 AstraZeneca Vaccine

You will be asked to give your consent if you are happy to get the AstraZeneca Vaccine.

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



Your AstraZeneca Vaccine will be given to you by your vaccinator. They are trained by the HSE to give COVID-19 vaccines.



Your AstraZeneca 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?



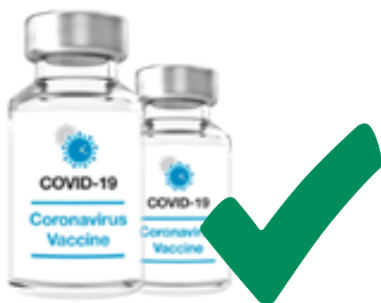
You will need 2 doses of the AstraZeneca Vaccine.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of your AstraZeneca Vaccine will be given to you between 4 and 12 weeks after you get the first dose.

## 4 to 12 Weeks

# Is the COVID-19 Vaccine safe?



The AstraZeneca 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 AstraZeneca 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](http://www.ema.europa.eu)

## What are the side effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine?



Some people get side effects from the AstraZeneca Vaccine. Most of these are mild to moderate. Not everyone will get them.

When more people get the AstraZeneca Vaccine we will know more about the side effects.



Some of these side effects where you had your injection are:

- redness or swelling
- soreness or bruising
- pain or itching



Other side effects are:

- sore knees or elbows or other bone joints



- feeling tired
- feeling sick



- sore head and sore muscles



- fever which is a high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above
- vomiting
- diarrhoea
- low platelet count in your blood  
this does not cause any symptoms

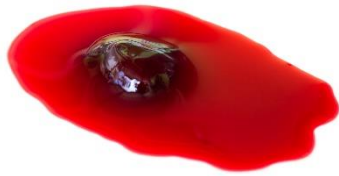


Some people get other side effects. These do not happen often they are:

- reduced appetite
- dizziness
- feeling sleepy
- sweating
- swollen glands
- rash
- very rare blood clots with low platelets
- capillary leak syndrome

It is very rare for someone to have a severe allergic reaction to the AstraZeneca Vaccine  
Your vaccinator is trained to treat you if you have a serious allergic reaction.

# What are very rare blood clots?



A blood clot happens when blood inside your body clumps together.

A blood clot can cause death.

A very small number of people may get blood clots with low platelets after getting the AstraZeneca Vaccine.

This can be dangerous.

This risk of getting a rare blood clot with low platelets after getting the AstraZeneca Vaccine is higher if you are under 50 years of age.

This is very rare.

You can talk to your Pharmacist or GP or Doctor or Nurse about the risks and benefits of getting the Vaccine.

Getting a blood clot after you have your AstraZeneca Vaccine is very rare.

It usually can happen up to 2 weeks or 14 days after you get your AstraZeneca Vaccine.

There is an even lower risk of getting a blood clot after your second of AstraZeneca Vaccine.

Tell your Doctor or Nurse straight away if you have symptoms of a blood clot in the weeks after you get your AstraZeneca Vaccine.



Blood clot symptoms include:



- being breathless



- pain in your chest



- stomach pain



- swollen or cold leg



- very sore headache which gets worse

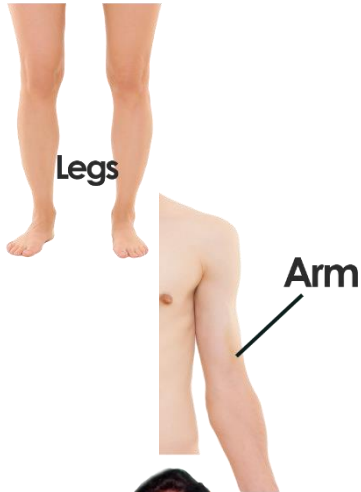


- blurred vision
- confusion
- seizures



- bruising and bleeding under your skin where you did not have an injury before
- some small bruises
- red or purple spots under your skin
- blood blisters under the skin





A very small number of people may get a condition called **Capillary Leak Syndrome.**

This can be very serious.

It can cause death.

This is very rare .

Symptoms of Capillary Leak Syndrome are;

- rapid swelling in your arms or legs
- sudden weight gain

You may also feel faint because of low blood pressure.

Capillary Leak Syndrome can happen within days of getting your AstraZeneca Vaccine.

Tell you Doctor, your GP or your Nurse if you have symptoms of Capillary Leak Syndrome in the days after you get your AstraZeneca Vaccine.



A very small number of people may get a condition called Guillain-Barre Syndrome. This can be very serious. You may need to go to hospital for treatment for Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

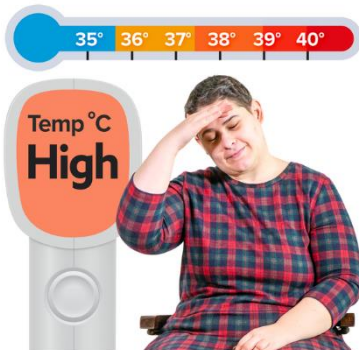
Symptoms of Guillain-Barre Syndrome are:

- nerve inflammation which can cause pain
- numbness
- weakness in your muscles
- weakness in your hands and feet
- trouble walking
- not being able to move your hands or feet



If you get these symptoms in the weeks after you get your AstraZeneca Vaccine get urgent medical help.

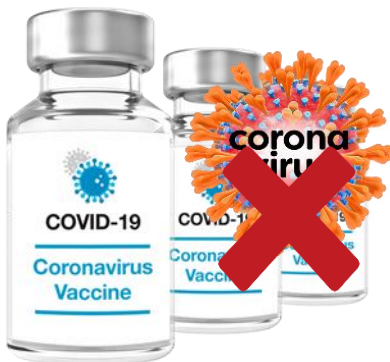
## What if I get a high temperature after I get the COVID-19 Vaccine?



If you get a high temperature after you get the AstraZeneca Vaccine it normally goes away in 2 days.

If it does not go away contact your Doctor Nurse or Pharmacist.

## Can the COVID-19 Vaccine give me COVID-19?



No.  
The AstraZeneca Vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.

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

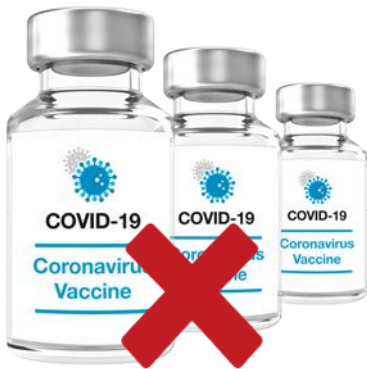
# Who should not get the COVID-19 Vaccine?



You should not get the AstraZeneca Vaccine if you have had a bad reaction to any of the ingredients.

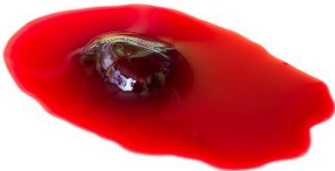
This includes an ingredient called polysorbate 80. You can find out about the ingredients here:

[www.hse.ie/covid19VaccinePIL](http://www.hse.ie/covid19VaccinePIL)



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

You should not get the AstraZeneca Vaccine if you had blood clots after the first dose



You should not get the COVID-19 Vaccine if you have had Capillary Leak Syndrome before. You should not get the AstraZeneca Vaccine if you have been told by a Doctor that you should not have the COVID-19 Janssen Vaccine or the COVID-19 AstraZeneca vaccine for medical reasons.

Talk to your Doctor before getting the COVID-19 Vaccine if you have had a severe allergic reaction in the past including to any other Vaccine or medication.

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



# I am under 50 years old. Should I get this vaccine?



If you have had your 1<sup>st</sup> dose of the AstraZeneca Vaccine the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of your AstraZeneca Vaccine will be given to you between 4 and 12 weeks after you had the first dose.

## 4 to 12 Weeks



The AstraZeneca Vaccine is recommended for people who are 50 years old and over.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Pfizer and the COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna is recommended for people who are under 50 years old.



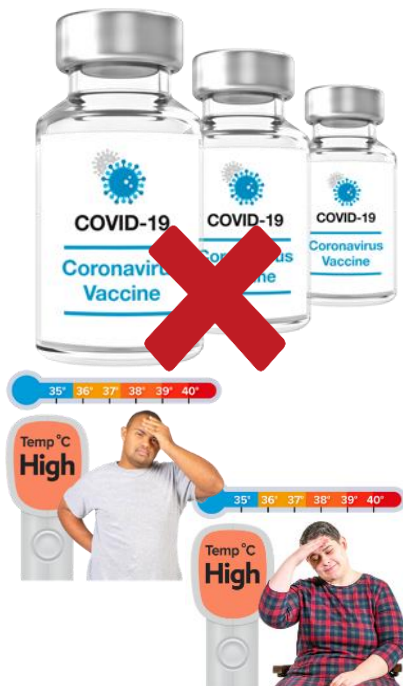
The European Medicine Agency has approved the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca for people who are aged 18 years old and over because the benefits of getting the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca are higher than the risks



The risk of developing blood clots with low platelets is very low. It is higher in those under 50 years of age.

If you are under 50 years of age and have not had a COVID-19 Vaccine yet talk to your vaccinator your GP your Doctor or your Pharmacist about the risks and benefits for you of getting the AstraZeneca Vaccine.

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



No.  
You should not get the AstraZeneca Vaccine if you have a high temperature.

You can get the AstraZeneca Vaccine when you are feeling better and do not have a high temperature.

## Should people who are pregnant or breastfeeding get the vaccine?

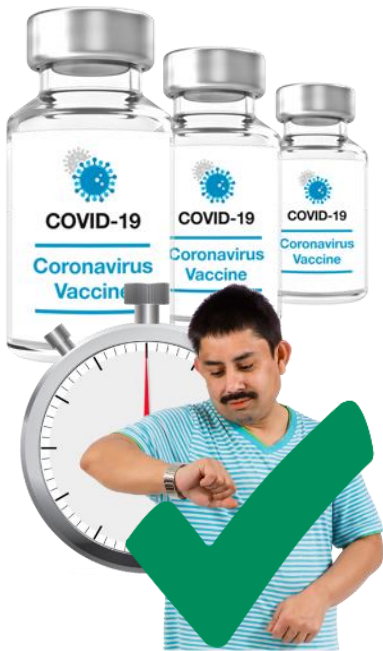


If you have had your first dose of AstraZeneca Vaccine and are breastfeeding, you should get your second dose.

If you have had your first dose of AstraZeneca Vaccine and are pregnant, you should get your second dose by the time you are 36 weeks pregnant. You will be at greater risk of severe illness if you do not get your second dose of the AstraZeneca Vaccine.

More information is available at [www.hse.ie/covidvacpreg](http://www.hse.ie/covidvacpreg)

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



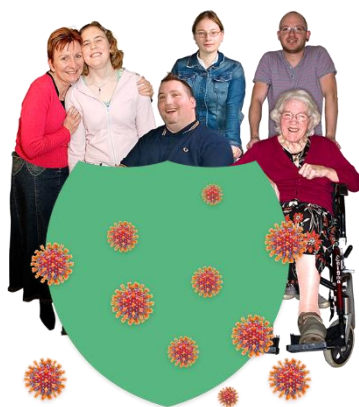
The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of your AstraZeneca Vaccine will be given to you between 4 and 12 weeks after you get the first dose. This will give you the best protection from COVID-19.

The AstraZeneca Vaccine will take 15 days after you get your second dose to get the best protection.

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

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

## Does the COVID-19 Vaccine work for everyone?



Scientists have said the AstraZeneca 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 AstraZeneca Vaccine you can report them to your Doctor or Nurse or Pharmacist.



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

[www.hpra.ie/report](http://www.hpra.ie/report)

Your Doctor or Nurse or Pharmacist 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 AstraZeneca 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 AstraZeneca 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](http://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/covid19vaccinematerials](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials)

You can read the patient information leaflet here:

[www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL](http://www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL)



You can telephone

HSE Live helpline.

The number is

1800 700 700.

This easy to read booklet was proof-read by;

Mr Paul Gallen

Co-collaborator & Ambassador for Intellectual Disability Rights &

Ms Geraldine Rabbitte

Co-collaborator & Ambassador for Intellectual Disability Rights

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