



# COVID-19 Vaccine

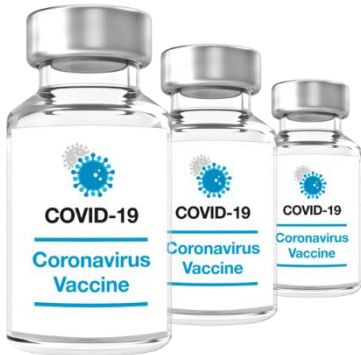
## Important information about the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

### Easy read guide

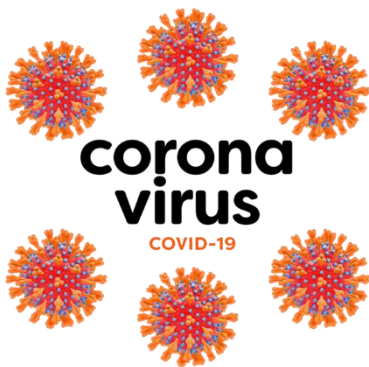
Version 4  
7 June 2021



# About this leaflet



This leaflet is about the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

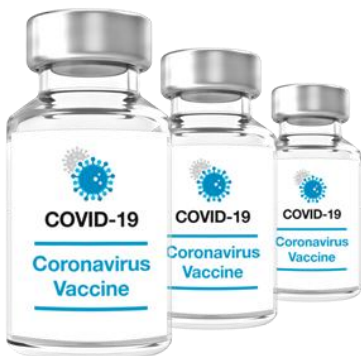


This leaflet will tell you what COVID-19 is.



This leaflet will tell you:

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



This leaflet will tell you:

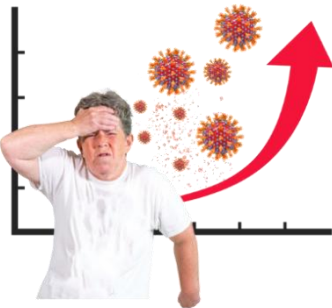
- why it is important to get the COVID-19 Vaccine
- who should not get the COVID-19 Vaccine
- the side effects of the COVID-19 Vaccine
- safety of the COVID-19 Vaccine
- where you can get more information on the COVID-19 Vaccine.



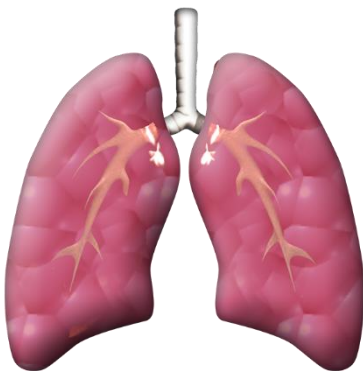
This will help you to make an informed decision to get the COVID-19 Vaccine or not.

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 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  
1850 24 1850.

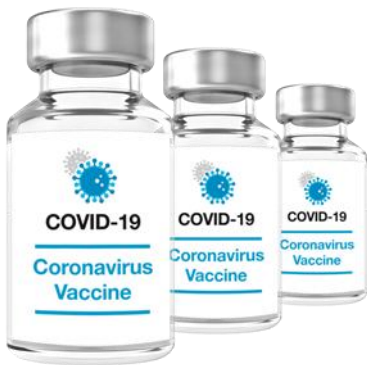
## Who is most at risk of COVID-19?



Older people and people with certain health conditions are at higher risk of getting severe COVID-19.

Other people can get sick with COVID-19.

# What is the COVID-19 Vaccine?

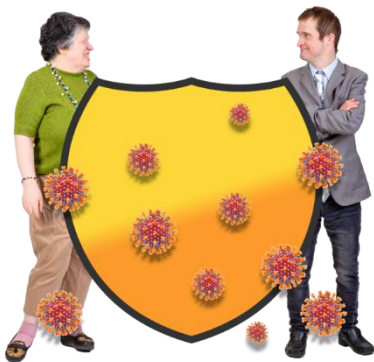


The COVID-19 Vaccine helps your body to protect you from COVID-19.



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?

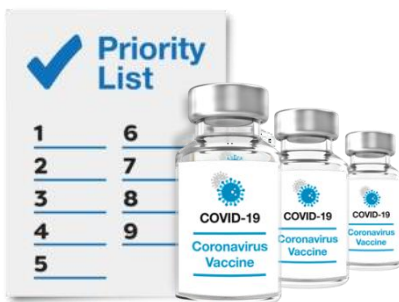


The HSE  
The World Health Organization and  
The Department of Health think you should  
get the COVID -19 Vaccine  
when it is offered to you.

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

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

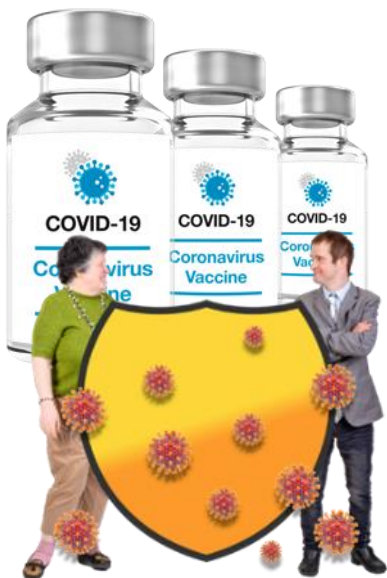


The person who will give you your COVID-19 Vaccine is called a vaccinator.

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-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?

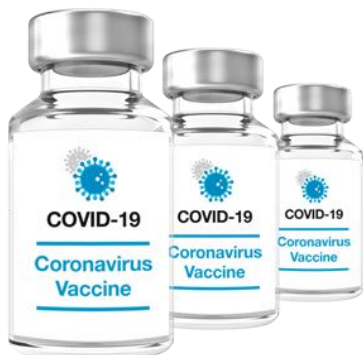


No.

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.

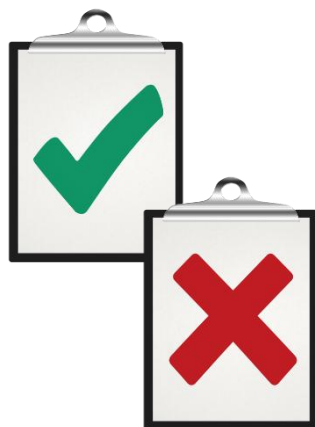
## What is the COVID-19 Vaccine called?



The COVID-19 Vaccine you are being offered is called Comirnaty. It is made by a company called 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 Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

You will be asked to give your consent if you are happy to get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

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



Your Comirnaty Pfizer/ BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will be given to you by a vaccinator.

They are trained by the HSE to give COVID-19 Vaccines.

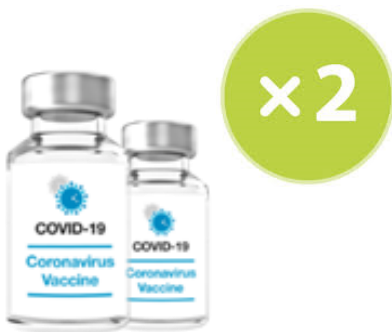


Your Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is given to you as an injection.

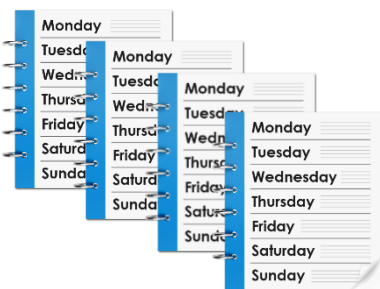


The injection is given in your upper arm.

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

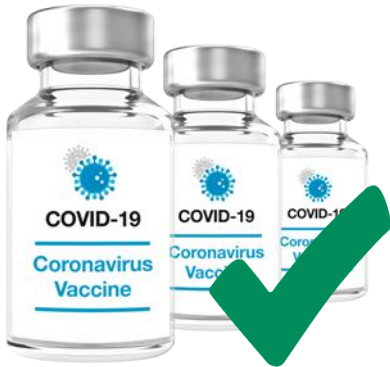


You will need 2 doses of the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of your Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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 Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

The Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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](http://www.ema.europa.eu)

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



Some people get side effects from The Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

Most of these are mild to moderate.

Not everyone will get them.

When more people get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine we will know more about the side effects.



Some of these side effects are:

- Soreness and swelling and redness where you had your injection



- sore knees elbows or knees or other bone joints



- feeling sick
- getting sick
- diarrhoea



- sore head and sore muscles



- feeling tired



- fever or a high temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or more.



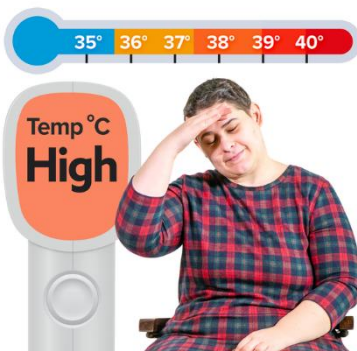
Some people get other side effects. These do not happen often they are:

- feeling itchy on your upper arm where you get your injection
- itchiness on your body
- swollen lymph glands in the arm where you got your injection
- not being able to sleep
- weakness in the muscles on one side of your face this is called Bell's palsy.
- swelling in your face - this can happen to people who have had cosmetic surgery on their face

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.

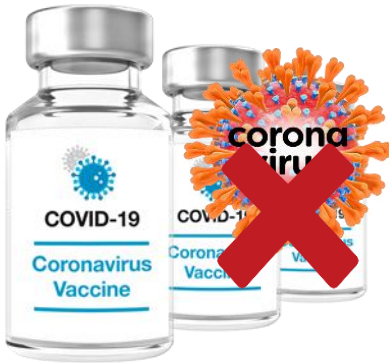
## What if I get a high temperature after I get the COVID-19 Vaccine?



If you get a high temperature after you get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine it normally goes away in 2 days.

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

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



No.

The Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine cannot give you COVID-19.

If you get a high temperature more than 2 days after you get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine you will need to self-isolate and tell your GP or your Doctor.

Your GP or Doctor will arrange for you to have a COVID-19 test.

## Who should not get the COVID-19 Vaccine?



You should not get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine if you have had a bad reaction to any of the ingredients.

This includes an ingredient called polyethylene glycol.

You can find out about the ingredients here:

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

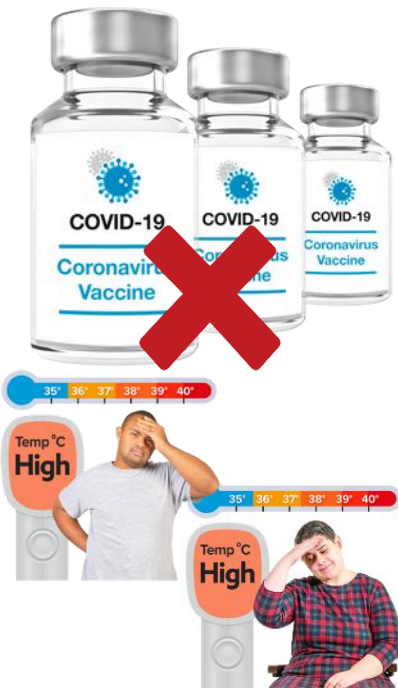
You should talk to your Doctor if you have had a bad reaction to any injection you have had or Polysorbate 80 before you get the COVID-19 Vaccine.



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

The vaccinator who is giving you the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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 Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine if you have a high temperature.

You can get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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?



Scientists have **not** said it is unsafe for people who are pregnant to get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.



If you are pregnant, you should talk to your Obstetrician or GP or Doctor about getting the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

People who are breastfeeding can get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

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

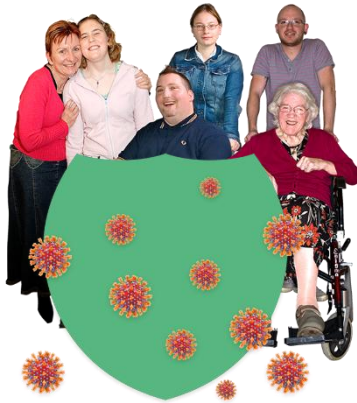


The Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will take 7 days to work after you get your 2 doses of Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.

Most people who get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine will have immunity and be protected from COVID-19.

You may still get COVID-19 after you get the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine but your symptoms may not be as bad.

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



Scientists have said the Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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 Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine you can report them to your GP 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 Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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 Comirnaty Pfizer/BioNTech 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](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/covid19Vaccinmaterials](http://www.hse.ie/covid19Vaccinmaterials)

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

1850 24 1850.

This easy to read booklet was proof-read by;

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This leaflet will be updated as new information becomes available.

For the latest information on this COVID-19 vaccine, go to [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie)

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