

COVID-19 vaccines and Pregnancy

Easy to read Guide

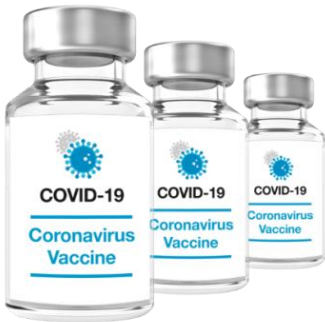
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Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Why should I get a COVID-19 vaccine?



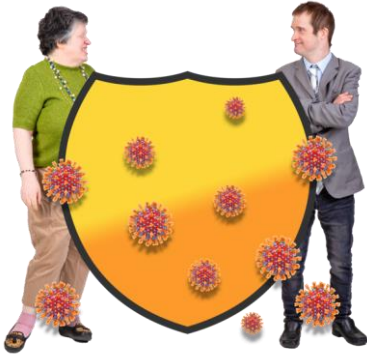
It is important to keep up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines.



This is important even if you had a COVID-19 vaccine before.



This is important even if you have had COVID-19 already.



The protection you get from having COVID-19, or getting the vaccines, weakens over time.



You may be at more risk of serious illness if you get COVID-19.



You should get a COVID-19 vaccine if you are pregnant, trying for a baby, might get pregnant, or breastfeeding.



COVID-19 is a risk to your health and the health of your baby.



Most pregnant people that get the virus do not get very ill.

They give birth as planned and the risk of passing COVID-19 to their baby is low.



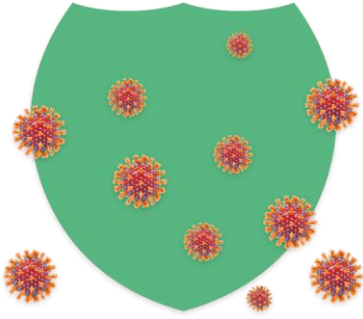
However, if you are pregnant, there is more chance you could get a serious illness and need treatment in hospital.



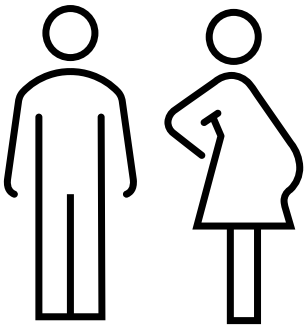
Children under the age of 1 with COVID-19 have more risk of getting very sick and going to hospital.



Young babies whose mothers were vaccinated in pregnancy, were less likely to need hospital care with COVID-19.



Getting a COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy gives you, and your baby, the best possible protection from COVID-19.



There is no research that shows that COVID-19 vaccines affect fertility in men or women.

Fertility is about being able to get pregnant



You don't have to wait to get pregnant after your COVID-19 vaccine.



It is safe to get your COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines you get when you are pregnant.



COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy



If you are pregnant, you will likely be offered a Pfizer vaccine.

This is an mRNA vaccine.

You can find more information on www.hse.ie



If your doctor says you should not get an mRNA vaccine, or you do not wish to have an mRNA vaccine, you could get the Novavax vaccine.



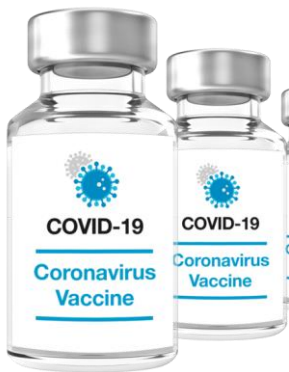
The COVID-19 vaccine VidPrevtyn Beta is not usually given in pregnancy.

It is only given in certain cases on the advice of a doctor.



Talk to your doctor, midwife, or vaccinator about these vaccines.

We have less information on the use of these vaccines in pregnant women.



Your first course of vaccines can be given any time in pregnancy.

This is 2 doses.



In pregnancy, you only need 1 COVID-19 booster.

If you have a weak immune system, you may get a second booster at least 6 months after your last COVID-19 vaccine or infection.

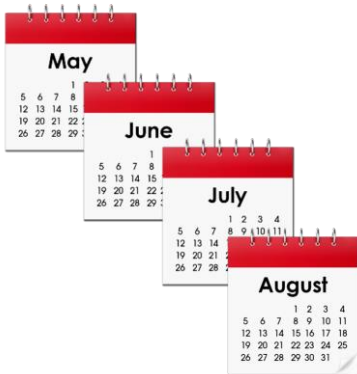


There are COVID-19 vaccines used in Ireland that have been changed so that they work better.

The changed COVID-19 vaccines can be given in pregnancy.



When should I get a booster?

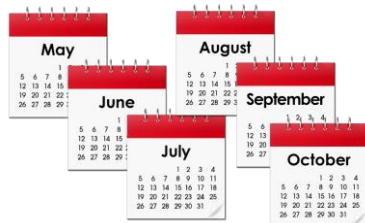


If you are pregnant and you have never had a COVID-19 booster:

You can get a booster if it is 4 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine dose or since you had COVID-19.



You can get your first booster dose any time in pregnancy.



If you had your first booster before you were pregnant:

- You can get another booster if it is 6 months since you had a COVID-19 vaccine or had COVID-19.



The best time to give the booster is between 20 and 34 weeks in your pregnancy.



You can get it earlier if it is more than 12 months since your last COVID-19 vaccine or since you had COVID-19.



What do we know about the safety of boosters?



We have less information on the safety of the second COVID-19 booster, or other boosters after this.



Many countries have given people a number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines.



Research studies show no extra safety concerns so far for people who have more than one booster.



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

The European Medicines Agency and National Immunisation Advisory Committee give advice on COVID-19 vaccines and boosters.



National Immunisation
Advisory Committee
NIAC

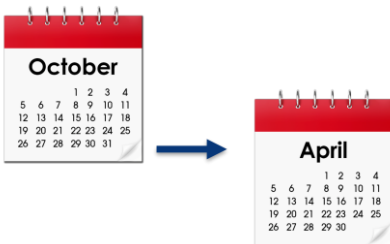
In Ireland, we follow advice from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee.



Can I get my COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as other vaccines?



Yes, you can get a COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the Flu or Whooping Cough vaccine.



Flu vaccines are usually offered between October and April.



The Whooping Cough vaccine is recommended between 16 and 36 weeks of pregnancy. It is available all through the year, usually from your GP.



How can I get more information?



You can read more about the vaccines on www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine



You can call our team in HSELive on 1800 700 700.
They are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday.
They are open from 9am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.



You can also talk to your GP, nurse, pharmacist, or vaccinator.

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