




**Protocol for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines for Health Service Executive (HSE) COVID-19 vaccination programme and in the event of an outbreak, by PHECC registered Vaccinators (Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics).**

(This document is to be read in conjunction with the Master Medicine Protocol published by National Immunisation Office for administration of COVID-19 vaccines)

<p><b>Name of Organisation where this protocol applies</b></p>	<p>Health Service Providers across the voluntary and statutory services of the Health Service Executive (HSE), and vaccination clinic centres. This protocol applies to registered Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) involved in the administration of the COVID-19 Vaccine to vaccine recipients under this protocol.</p>
<p><b>Date this protocol comes into effect</b></p>	<p>23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024</p>
<p><b>Date for review of this protocol</b></p>	<p>23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026</p> <p>The first version of this document is dated 23rd March 2024. This document is subject to ongoing revision. Please refer to the current version available on the NIO website</p>
<p><b>Document prepared by:</b></p>	<p>Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council in consultation with the National Immunisation Office (NIO)</p>
<p><b>Names and Signatures of the officers authorising the implementation of this protocol</b></p> <p><i>“On behalf of the HSE as the approving authority of the COVID-19 training programme for registered PHECC Practitioners, I have read this protocol and authorise its implementation”</i></p>	<p>Name: <b>Mr Richard Lodge</b>, Director, Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council</p> <p>Signature: </p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>



**Section B: Information Specific to Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC)**

**registered Vaccinators (Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics), for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines for Health Service Executive (HSE) COVID-19 vaccination programme and in the event of an outbreak.**

Statutory Instruments No. 698 of 2020, No 8 of 2021 and No 43 of 2021 enables health care professionals (including Registered EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) who are vaccinators as professions that can administer COVID-19 vaccine as part of an HSE vaccination programme.

In order to administer the vaccine, PHECC registered Vaccinators (EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) **must read and understand** the vaccine specific master medicine protocol for the administration of each COVID-19 vaccine to be administered.

PHECC registered Vaccinators (EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) shall **complete the Self-Assessment of Competency Form** included in this section. The medicine protocol and the Self-Assessment of Competency Form are available at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

PHECC registered Vaccinators (EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) **must** have attained the professional qualification, training and competence requirements as listed below in order to be eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccines using the HSE master medicine protocols for these vaccines.

<p><b>Professional qualifications, training, experience and competence required prior to using this medicine protocol</b></p>	<p>The PHECC registered Vaccinators (EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) must have completed all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a Registered EMT, Paramedic or advanced paramedic on the active register maintained by PHECC</li> <li>2. Be currently certified at Cardiac First Response – Advanced within the last two years</li> <li>3. Initial <i>National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals</i> accessible on <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a> followed by a two hour classroom based skills workshop. Recertification is required every two years by completing the on-line <i>National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals</i> accessible on <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a></li> <li>4. Immunisation Foundation programme accessible on <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a></li> <li>5. If applicable, critically examining the evidence and practice of holding children for clinical procedures (Masterclass Recording - 6th Dec 2022) accessible on <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a></li> <li>6. Self-Assessment of Competency Form for COVID-19 Vaccines (included in this Section B document)</li> <li>7. <i>Storing and Managing Vaccines</i>, available at <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a></li> </ol>
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**The PHECC registered Vaccinators (EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics) must be familiar with the following list of clinical documents:**

8. National Immunisation Advisory Committee (2023) *Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the Community* available at: <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>
9. National Immunisation Advisory Committee *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland*: Royal College of Physicians of Ireland National Immunisation Advisory Committee available at: <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>
10. Master Medicine Protocols (found on NIO website)
  - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19/vaccineinfo4hps/comirnatyxbb1512yrs.pdf>
  - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19/vaccineinfo4hps/nuvaxovid/mmpn.pdf>
  - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19/vaccineinfo4hps/comirnatyxbb15for511yrs.pdf>
  - <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19/vaccineinfo4hps/comirnatyxbb15bluecap511.pdf>

#### **Supporting Documents for PHECC registered Vaccinators (EMT, Paramedics and Advanced Paramedics)**

National Clinical Guideline No. 30 (2023) – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/>.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee (2023) *Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the Community*. Available at [https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO\\_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/](https://rcpi.access.preservica.com/uncategorized/IO_a36f9e4b-4c80-432d-8264-546089359925/)

National Immunisation Advisory Committee *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland* Dublin: Royal College of Physicians Ireland. Online update available at <https://www.rcpi.ie/Healthcare-Leadership/NIAC/Immunisation-Guidelines-for-Ireland>

PHECC (2017) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registrants*. Available at:

[https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Public\\_and\\_patients/Code\\_of\\_professional\\_conduct\\_and\\_ethics/PHECC/Public\\_and\\_Patients/Code\\_of\\_Professional\\_Conduct\\_and\\_Ethics/Code\\_of\\_Professional\\_Conduct\\_and\\_Ethics.aspx?hkey=2fc616eb-7865-4bbb-8526-7a6f25ddb54c](https://www.phecit.ie/PHECC/Public_and_patients/Code_of_professional_conduct_and_ethics/PHECC/Public_and_Patients/Code_of_Professional_Conduct_and_Ethics/Code_of_Professional_Conduct_and_Ethics.aspx?hkey=2fc616eb-7865-4bbb-8526-7a6f25ddb54c)



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (PRINT CLEARLY in CAPITALS)

**Self-Assessment of Competency to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine under Medicine Protocol**

	<b>Critical Element</b>	<b>Competent</b> Date/Initials	<b>Needs Practice</b> Date/Initials	<b>Needs Theory</b> Date/Initials
1.	I practice within my scope of practice to undertake administration of COVID-19 Vaccines, under medicine protocol.			
2.	I am familiar with and adhere to the practices as set out in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland</i> (NIAC).</li> <li>• COVID-19 Guidelines for Vaccinators (NIO)</li> </ul>			
3.	I have successfully completed the National Immunisation Office (NIO) education programme for COVID-19 vaccine, available at <a href="http://www.immunisation.ie">www.immunisation.ie</a>			
4.	I have attended Cardiac First Response - Advanced within the last two years and am currently certified.			
5.	I am competent in safe vaccine administration technique.			
6.	I have successfully completed an approved Anaphylaxis education programme as outlined in the medicine protocol. I am familiar with NIAC (2023) <i>Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the Community</i> .			
7.	I have successfully completed the Immunisation Foundation programme accessible on HSELand			
8.	I undertake to review the most current vaccination information from the NIO - <a href="http://www.immunisation.ie">www.immunisation.ie</a> .			
9.	I can outline the inclusion/exclusion criteria for administering COVID-19 vaccine under the named medicine protocol.			
10.	In assessing suitability for vaccination I can undertake a clinical assessment of individuals within the scope of the medicine protocol.			
11.	I can refer those who meet the exclusion criteria to the relevant medical practitioner for an individual medical assessment as per medicine protocol.			
12.	I am familiar with the documentation required to support implementation of the medicine protocol to ensure safe administration of COVID-19 vaccines.			
13.	I can provide information regarding COVID-19 vaccine, benefits and side effects to vaccine recipients.			
14.	I am aware of the procedure for treatment and reporting of adverse reactions.			
15.	I understand the procedure for reporting and documentation of medication errors/near misses.			
16.	I dispose of all equipment and sharps in accordance with the National clinical guideline for Infection prevention & control HSE (2023).			
17.	I am aware of and comply with the guidance on vaccine storage and handling including the maintenance of the cold chain in accordance with national and local policies.			
18.	I have undertaken the following HSELand/online programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AMRIC Aseptic Technique <a href="http://www.hseland.ie">www.hseland.ie</a></li> <li>• AMRIC Hand Hygiene <a href="http://www.hseland.ie">www.hseland.ie</a></li> <li>• GDPR Guidelines <a href="http://www.hseland.ie">www.hseland.ie</a></li> </ul>			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Consent Policy:  <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/national-office-human-rights-equality-policy/consent/">https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/national-office-human-rights-equality-policy/consent/</a> </li> <li></li> </ul>			
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*I have sufficient theoretical knowledge and practice to undertake vaccination under this medicine protocol independently, and I acknowledge my responsibility to maintain my own competence in line with current best evidence.*

PHECC Registered Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic or Advanced Paramedic

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

*If any deficits in theory and/or clinical practice are identified, the PHECC Registered Emergency Medical Technician, Paramedic or Advanced Paramedic must discuss with relevant line manager and implement appropriate action plan to achieve competency within an agreed time frame.*

**Action Plan** (for use if needed to reach competencies outlined)

Action necessary to achieve competency:

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Date to be achieved: .....

Supporting evidence of measures taken to achieve competency:

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PHECC Registered EMT, Paramedic or Advanced Paramedic signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Line Manager Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_