



**Statement of Support to the Health & Social care Professional (HSCP) (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) vaccinators to supply and administer COVID-19 vaccines as part of the Health Service Executive (HSE) COVID-19 vaccination programme.**

The HSE COVID-19 vaccination programme commenced in December 2020. The Statutory Instruments No. 698 of 2020, No. 81 of 2021 and No. 245 of 2021 identify the Health & Social care professionals (HSCP) as one of the professions that can administer the COVID-19 vaccines, subject to the approval of an education programme by the relevant professional body concerned.

We are happy to support HSCP vaccinators in administering COVID-19 vaccines under the HSE master medicine protocols for COVID-19 vaccines which the Chief Clinical Officer, HSE and Director of National Health Protection, HSE approve.

The COVID-19 master medicine protocols are developed by the HSE in accordance with the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC) immunisation guidelines for Ireland.

**NOTE:** HSCP Vaccinators must have attained the professional qualification, training and competence requirements as listed in Section B document for HSCP vaccinators in order to be eligible to administer COVID-19 vaccines using the HSE master medicine protocol for COVID-19 vaccines.

To administer the COVID-19 vaccines HSCP vaccinators must be familiar with the

-most up to date version of the HSE master medicine protocol for each COVID-19 vaccine, available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/covid19vaccineinfo4hps.html>

-Section B document for COVID-19 vaccination programme which outlines the education & training requirements and self-assessment of competency requirements relevant to your profession, available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/covid19vaccineinfo4hps.html>

We want to acknowledge the contribution of the HSCP professions to this vital national vaccination programme.

Signature:

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Signature:

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024



**Section B: Information Specific to HSCP Vaccinators (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) for the administration of the COVID-19 Vaccines**

Statutory Instruments, No. 698 of 2020, No. 81 of 2021 enables health care professionals (including Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) who are COVID-19 vaccinators as professions that can administer COVID-19 vaccines.

In order to administer the vaccine, HSCP Vaccinators (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) **must** be familiar with the medicine protocol for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines which is available at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

HSCP Vaccinators (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) are also encouraged to **complete the Self-Assessment of Competency Form** included in this section and also available at [www.immunisation.ie](http://www.immunisation.ie)

HSCP Vaccinators (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) **must** have attained the professional qualification, training and competence requirements as listed below in order to be eligible to administer COVID-19 using the HSE master medicine protocol for this vaccine.

**Professional Qualifications, Training, Experience and Competence Required**

<p><b>Professional qualifications, training, experience and competence required prior to using this medicine protocol</b></p>	<p>The HSCP Vaccinators (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists) must have completed all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a Registered Physiotherapist, Radiographer, Radiation Therapist, or Optometrist, on an active register maintained by CORU</li> <li>2. An approved <i>Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers Course</i> within the last two years (i.e. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF))</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. NIO COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programmes – COVID-19 Vaccine formulations for People aged 12 years and older , COVID-19 Vaccine formulations for children aged 5-11years accessible on <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a></li> <li>5. 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. COVAX online programme available at: <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/hsecovid19vms.html">https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/hsecovid19vms.html</a></li> </ol> <p><b>Recommended:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Self-Assessment of Competency Form for COVID-19 Vaccine (included in this Section B document ) available at <a href="https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/">https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/</a></li> <li>8. <i>Storing and Managing Vaccines</i>, available at <a href="http://www.HSELand.ie">www.HSELand.ie</a></li> </ol>
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## **Supporting Documents for HSCP Vaccinators (Registered Physiotherapists, Radiographers, Radiation Therapists, and Optometrists)**

HSE Vaccination Programme COVID\_Flu Operational Guidance v3, available at <https://healthirl.sharefile.eu/home/shared/fo0e94a2-4c18-4f90-ab82-43cae539ac48>

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 <http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/guidelines/>

National Immunisation Office (2023) Dublin: Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/covid19vaccineinfo4hps/clinicalguidance.pdf>

Optical Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Optometrists <https://www.coru.ie/files-codes-of-conduct/orb-code-of-professional-conduct-and-ethics-for-optometrists.pdf>

Physiotherapists Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics <https://www.coru.ie/files-codes-of-conduct/prb-code-of-professional-conduct-and-ethics-for-physiotherapists.pdf>

Radiographers and Radiation Therapists Registration Board Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics <https://www.coru.ie/files-codes-of-conduct/rrb-code-of-professional-conduct-and-ethics-for-radiographers-and-radiation-therapists.pdf>

## Self-Assessment of Competency Form



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(PRINT CLEARLY in CAPITALS)

### Self-Assessment of Competency to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine under the HSE master medicine Protocol

Domain of Practice	Critical Element	Competent Date/Initials	Needs Practice Date/Initials	Needs Theory Date/Initials
1	I understand the role and function of medicine protocols in the context of my practice in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Professional and Ethics for my discipline</li> <li>NIAC Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland</li> </ul>			
2	I practice within my scope of practice to undertake administration of COVID-19 vaccine under the medicine protocol			
3	I am familiar with and adhere to the practices as set out in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland (NIAC)</li> <li>Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination (NIO, 2024)</li> <li>NIO COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme- COVID-19 Vaccine formulations for People aged 12 years and older and COVID-19 Vaccine formulations for children aged 5-11years accessible on <a href="http://www.HSEland.ie">www.HSEland.ie</a></li> </ul> I undertake to review the most current vaccination information from the NIO available at <a href="http://www.immunisation.ie">www.immunisation.ie</a>			
4	I have read and understood the current Medicine Protocol for this immunisation programme			
5	I can outline the inclusion/exclusion criteria for administering COVID-19 vaccine under the named medicine protocol			
6	I am competent in safe intramuscular injection (IM) technique			
7	I understand if further education and training is required in intramuscular injection technique I am required to attend face to face education/training provided by the HSE or HSE contracted providers			
8	I have successfully completed the following <a href="http://www.hseland.ie">www.hseland.ie</a> programmes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AMRIC Aseptic Technique</li> <li>AMRIC Hand Hygiene</li> <li>GDPR</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Consent Policy (HSE,2022) available at: <a href="https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/procedures-guidelines/hse-consent-policy/">https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/procedures-guidelines/hse-consent-policy/</a></li> <li>Introduction to Children First accessible on: <a href="http://www.HSEland.ie">www.HSEland.ie</a></li> </ul>			
9	I hold a valid Basic Life Support (Irish Heart Foundation or Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council approved) Certificate			
10	I have completed supervised administration of COVID-19 vaccine and been deemed competent by the clinical lead of the vaccination base or by an appointed nominee			
11	I have attended the approved Anaphylaxis education programme			
12	I can refer to/discuss those that are meeting the exclusion criteria to the relevant medical practitioner for an individual medical assessment as per the medicine protocol			
13	I am familiar with the documentation required to support the implementation of the medicine protocol to ensure safe administration of COVID-19 vaccine			
14	In assessing suitability for vaccination, I can undertake a clinical assessment of individuals within the scope of the medicine protocol			

15	I can provide information regarding COVID-19 vaccine, benefits and side effects to vaccine recipients			
16	I am aware of the procedure for treatment and reporting of potential adverse reactions			
17	I understand the procedure for reporting and documentation of medicine errors/near misses			
18	I dispose of single use equipment and sharps in accordance with National Clinical Guideline No.30 (2023) – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) available at: <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/">https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/</a>			
20	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			
21	I have read HSE National Consent Policy and Assisted Decision-Making (capacity) Act 2015 and understand its implications as applicable to COVID-19 vaccination			
22	I understand the agreed process, including ICT systems if applicable for the accurate and appropriate documentation in the vaccine recipient's record for vaccine administration			

*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.*

Registered Physiotherapist, Radiographer, Radiation Therapist, or Optometrist

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CORU Reg. No.** \_\_\_\_\_

*If any deficits in theory and/or clinical practice are identified, the Registered Physiotherapist, Radiographer, Radiation Therapist, or Optometrist 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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Registered Physiotherapist, Radiographer, Radiation Therapist, or Optometrist Signature:

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Line Manager Signature

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_