



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
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Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
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Autumn Winter 2024/2025 Vaccination Programme Updates

Dear Doctor,

The seasonal vaccination programme is well underway, and to-date circa 283K COVID-19 boosters and 575K flu vaccines have been administered by General Practices.

We have a number of programme updates to bring to your attention:

Vaccine administration and recording

Please ensure timely recording of vaccine administration in your GP Practice Management System (PMS)/GPVax and maintain complete and contemporaneous record keeping of vaccinations. Additionally, prior to administering any vaccines, please use the Vaccination History search facility via the HSE's '[Health Provider Portal](#)' to check vaccination status to avoid administering a duplicate vaccine. Please see [Guidance Note 2 Completion of Vaccination Records on IT Systems](#)

Prior to vaccination, informed consent must be obtained by the individual or the team who is administering the vaccine. For more information on obtaining consent see [Consent information for health professionals for COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2024/2025](#).

The National COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Programme Operational Guidance for General Practice is available on the [VPCC Webpage](#).

Update on eligibility for seasonal flu vaccine

As per the [NIAC](#) Immunisation Guidelines, those with serious mental health conditions and other metabolic disorders are recommended to receive a flu vaccine, reimbursement will apply to those eligible for vaccination. For more information on the groups eligible for flu and COVID-19 vaccination, please see:

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/recommendedgroupscovid19andinfluenza.pdf>

Additional information is available at [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2024/2025](#).

COVID-19 vaccine products

[NIAC](#) have recommended that antigenically updated COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are the preferred vaccine for use in the winter vaccination programme 2024/2025. The current vaccine available is Comirnaty JN.1 (for all preparations).

Comirnaty KP.2 will be available shortly from the National Cold Chain, as this is a more updated variant vaccine. It is recommended that any existing stocks of Comirnaty JN.1 vaccine should be used prior to ordering more vaccines. Please continue to maximise your vaccine stock by booking vaccine appointments in groups of six or seven patients to use full vials of COVID-19 vaccine wherever possible.

The clinical guidance and [HSELand](#) training modules will be updated to reflect this new vaccine type.

For any clinical queries, please contact immunisation@hse.ie.



Conclusion

I would like once again to express my sincere gratitude to General Practitioners and their teams for the efficient manner in which the COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Programmes have been delivered to-date. I would also like to wish you and your team every success in delivering the remainder of the seasonal vaccination programme.

Please be assured of the HSE's continued support at this time and if you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact the Vaccinations and Primary Care Contractor Team on 021- 4928787 or by email vaccinations.primarycarecontractors@hse.ie.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Crowley', written over a horizontal line.

Geraldine Crowley
Assistant National Director
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contract