



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Cúnta Náisiúnta
Clár Cúraim Pobail Feabhsaithe &
Conarthaí Príomhchúraim
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte

Urlár 2, Páirc Ghnó Bhóthar na Modhfheirme,
Bóthar na Modhfheirme, Corcaigh, T12 HT02

Office of the Assistant National Director
Enhanced Community Care Programme &
Primary Care Contracts
Health Service Executive

Floor 2, Model Business Park,
Model Farm Road, Cork, T12 HT02

www.hse.ie

T: 021-4928787

E:

vaccinations.primarycarecontractors@hse.ie

Date: 20 November 2024

Reference: NCO-39-2024

Autumn Winter 2024/2025 Vaccination Programme Updates

Dear Pharmacist,

The seasonal vaccination programme is well underway, and to-date circa 128K COVID-19 boosters and 270K flu vaccines have been administered by Community Pharmacies.

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

Vaccine administration and recording

Please ensure timely recording of vaccine administration in PharmaVax and maintain complete and contemporaneous record keeping of vaccinations. Additionally, prior to administering any vaccines, please use the Vaccination History search facility in PharmaVax 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 team administering the vaccination. 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 Community Pharmacies 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 now 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 Service, 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 Community Pharmacies 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