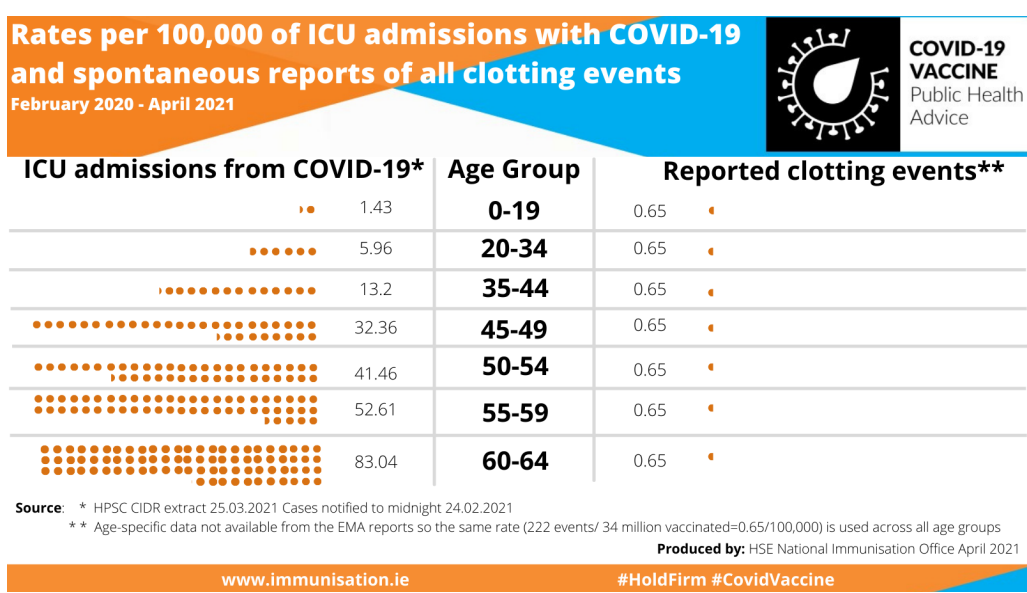
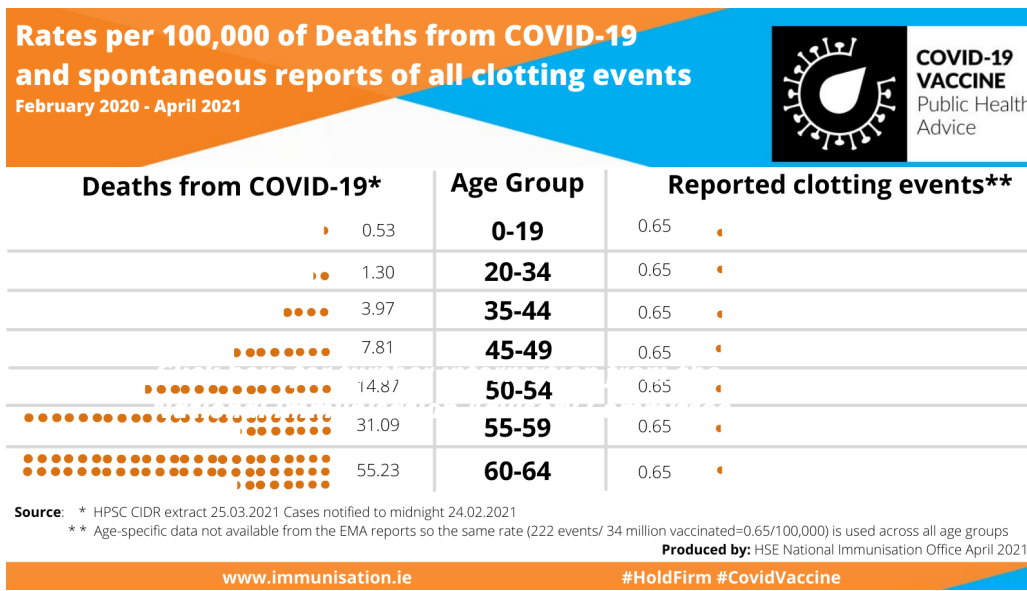


COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

Welcome to Bulletin 16 from the HSE National Immunisation Office which highlights changes in clinical guidance for the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Bulletins will be published every week or more frequently, if required.

Communicating the risks of very rare clotting events and Vaxzevria®

We have developed graphics to support vaccinators in communicating the risks of very rare clotting events. The data included in the graphics includes data from the European Medicines Agency on reported cases of thromboembolic events associated with thrombocytopenia, and data from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre on rates of hospitalisation and deaths from COVID-19 in Ireland stratified by age group until midnight 24/02/2021.



Click here to download and share the graphics

Click here for further information from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee



COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

Dosing interval of vaccines

As the COVID-19 vaccination programme continues, many people are now receiving their second dose of vaccine.

Vaccines have been administered in a variety of settings including residential care facilities, hospitals, general practice and vaccination clinics or hubs. Three COVID-19 vaccines are used in our programme and different vaccines have been used in different settings.



Before administering a second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine it is important to check the following:

- What vaccine was given as a first dose? Remember that vaccines are not interchangeable.
- When was the first dose given and is the dosing interval correct? Remember evidence on efficacy for a dose interval of less than the minimum interval is lacking.

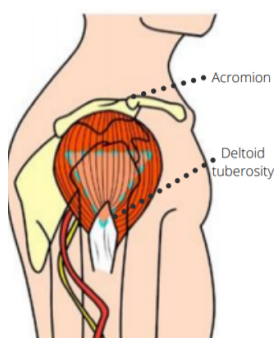


[Read more here](#)

Land marking the injection site at the deltoid muscle

Land marking the injection site at the deltoid muscle is essential to prevent vaccine administration-related injuries. Administering the vaccine at the incorrect site may result in a shoulder, nerve-related or other injuries. It may also affect the efficacy of the vaccine.

How to landmark the injection site:



The light triangle in the figure indicates the site for IM injection into the deltoid

- The upper border of the triangle is approximately two finger-breadths below the acromion process
- The apex is at the midpoint of the humerus
- The recommended site for injection is in the middle of the triangle
- To avoid causing an injury, do not inject too high or too low.

[Read more here](#)



A video is now available on correct IM injection technique at www.immunisation.ie and also available on [HSELand](#)

[Watch it here](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

Amárach public opinion surveys on COVID-19 vaccines

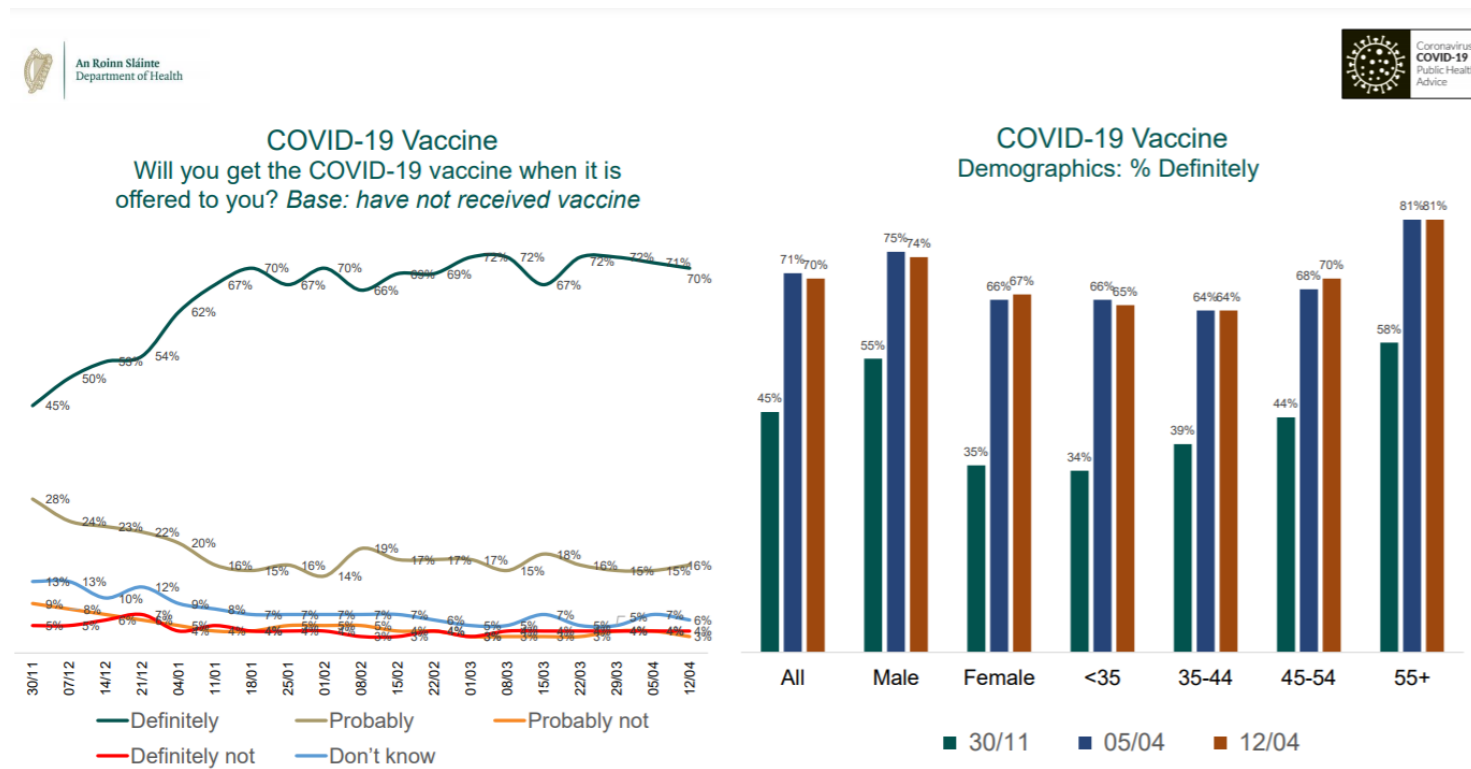
The Department of Health publishes the results of weekly surveys of public opinion on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

The most recent survey from 12th of April is now available which was carried out after the report of the European Medicines Agency on clotting events associated with Vaxzevria® (AstraZeneca).

Results show that the majority (86%) of respondents would definitely or probably get a COVID-19 vaccine when it is offered to them. This proportion of people who would definitely get a COVID-19 vaccine was higher in people aged 55 and older.

Just 3% of respondents would definitely not get a COVID-19 vaccine if offered to them. The results show ongoing strong acceptance of COVID-19 vaccines.

Monitoring of attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines is ongoing, through surveys, monitoring of mainstream and social media and other methods.



Source: Amárach Public Opinion Tracker for Department of Health

[Click here for further information](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

Vaccine Effectiveness of Comirnaty® (Pfizer/BioNTech) and Vaxzevria® (AstraZeneca) vaccines in London

This study, available as a preprint and not yet peer reviewed, is a study of 2,183,939 individuals eligible for COVID 19 vaccination in North-West London. The study linked primary and secondary care data to examine the risk of testing positive for COVID 19 in vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.

Results showed that 28 days after vaccination there was a 74% (HR 0.26 (0.19-0.35)) and 78% (HR 0.22 (0.18-0.27)) reduction in the risk of testing positive for COVID-19 for individuals that received the AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines respectively, when compared with unvaccinated individuals.

After vaccination very low rates of hospital admission were seen in individuals testing positive for COVID-19 (0.01% of all patients vaccinated).

This study provides further evidence that a single dose of either the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or the AstraZeneca vaccine is effective at reducing the risk of testing positive for COVID-19 up to 60 days after vaccination across all adult age groups, ethnic groups, and risk categories in an urban UK population.

There was no difference in effectiveness up to 28 days between the AstraZeneca and Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines.

[Read more here](#)

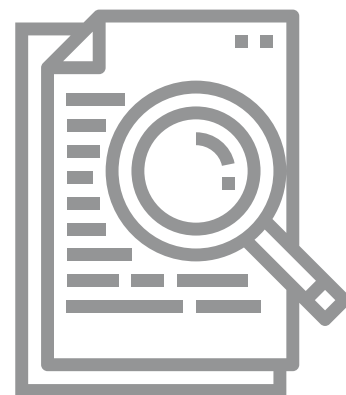
Research studies are underway comparing COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule Combinations

Research studies are underway comparing COVID-19 vaccine schedule combinations.

An example is the Oxford Vaccine Group's Com-Cov vaccine trial which is studying the use of different combinations of COVID-19 vaccines for the first and second immunisation doses. The two vaccines in this study are AstraZeneca and Pfizer/ BioNTech.

A second study, Com-Cov2 is enrolling men and women aged 50 years and older. The vaccines used in this study are AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Novavax.

[Read more here](#)

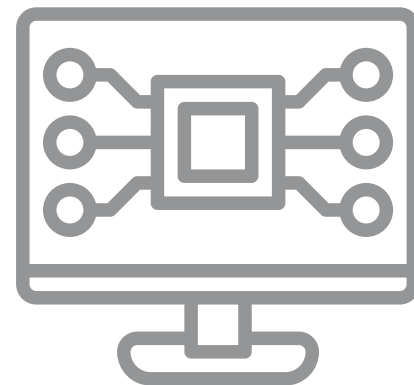


COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

CoVax Updates

GP interface go live Monday 19th April

Vaccination records from GP practices around the country will be added to the CoVax system over the next week starting on the 19th of April. Hospitals can now check patient records for COVID-19 vaccination status on admission. Mass Vaccination Centres can see doses already given in hospital or by GPs.



Anaphylaxis checklist changed from the Healthcare Worker Portal Format

The public portal went live this week for registration in the over 65 age group and those who register will receive a text to complete the consent and eligibility form for vaccination on line. The eligibility and consent form for the public has been updated to be compliant with National Adult Literacy Service(NALA) requirements.

Sprint 8 go live planned for Tues 20th April

This sprint introduces changes including

- Multiple Consent and Eligibility when completed will be date stamped
- Deceased clients - there is a new workflow to help cancel future appointments.
- New field on the Client record with Vaccine Course Status

COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

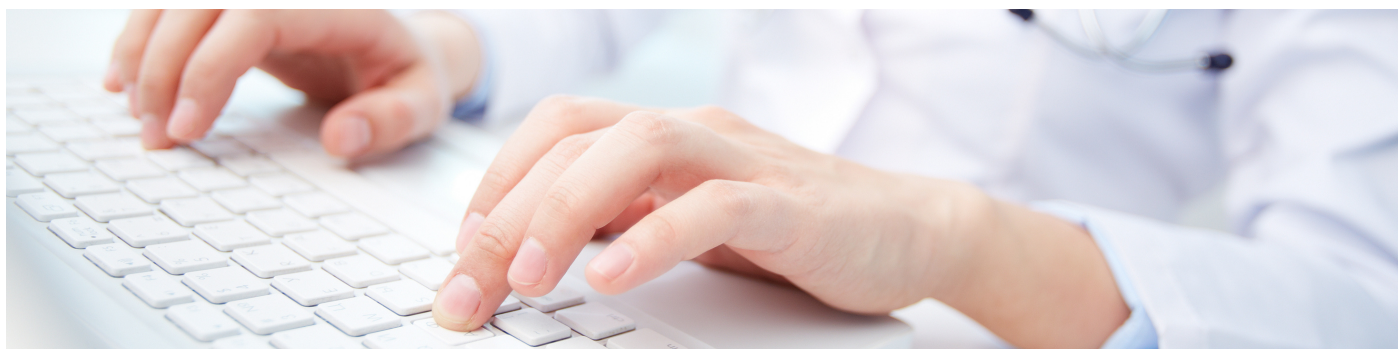
Website

Visit our website www.immunisation.ie regularly for the most up to date information to support vaccinators and health professionals responding to queries.

Our dedicated COVID-19 Vaccination section contains

- Information from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee
- Clinical guidelines
- COVID-19 vaccine studies
- IM Injection technique reminders
- Dedicated pages for the licensed COVID-19 vaccines

[Visit here](#)



COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme

There are now **over 12,000** completions for the National Immunisation Office "COVID-19 Vaccination Training Programme" on HSELand.

The programme covers topics like

- Recommendations and contraindications
- Preparing vaccines for administration
- Communications and consent

The programme is updated regularly to include the most up to date information to support vaccinators who are competent in giving vaccinations.

You will be notified by email when new content is available for completion. Follow the instructions in the email to complete the updates. You do not need to redo the entire programme.

[Register here](#)

COVID-19 VACCINE BULLETIN 16

Do you have queries?

For questions about the COVID-19 Vaccination programme

- COVID-19 vaccine orders or deliveries to GPs, please email gpvaccines@hse.ie
- Health Professionals for your own COVID-19 vaccination appointments, please email Covid19.support@hse.ie
- Legal queries, potential challenges related to vaccination and obtaining a consent, please email lead.integratedcare@hse.ie and dervelagrady@rcpi.ie
- For clinical queries and queries relating to cold chain maintenance or breakdown, please email immunisation@hse.ie



Should vaccines be exposed to temperatures outside of these parameters please contact the National Immunisation Office immediately. Contacts include:

- Achal Gupta: achal.gupta@hse.ie mobile 087 4064810
- Mariangela Toma: mariangela.toma@hse.ie mobile 087 7575679
- Cliona Kiersey: cliona.kiersey@hse.ie mobile 087 9915452
- Email the immunisation inbox: immunisation@hse.ie

The National Immunisation Office is not involved in the allocation or delivery of COVID-19 Vaccines.

Recommendations about COVID-19 vaccine are changing as more information becomes available so please visit our [website](#) for the most up to date information.