

COVID-19 Vaccines for people aged 18 to 34 years

Version 2.0



COVID-19
VACCINE
Public Health
Advice

Based on a recommendation from the National Immunisations Advisory Committee (NIAC), people between 18 and 34 can opt for earlier vaccination by choosing Vaxzevria® vaccine (COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca) or the COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen®. These are both viral vector vaccines.

However, you can wait to be offered Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine) or SpikeVax® (COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna) vaccines a bit later. These vaccines are called mRNA vaccines.

It's your choice to opt for a viral vector vaccine when it's available or wait for an mRNA vaccine to be available.

The HSE is providing COVID-19 vaccines free of charge.

All COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and licensed in the EU for use in adults aged 18 years and over. Comirnaty® (Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine) can be used in ages 16 and over.

You'll find information on [hse.ie](https://www.hse.ie) on all available vaccines.

Get a Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccine now

Wait for an mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine

What are the positives of this option?

- The Delta Variant is spreading in Ireland, and across the world. In recent weeks more young people have caught COVID-19 disease in Ireland
- You will get your vaccine quicker if you choose to get a viral vector vaccine now
- After completing the full course of the vaccine, you get significant protection from severe COVID-19 that requires hospitalisation or can lead to death
- You need to get 2 doses of Vaxzevria® vaccine (COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca) 4 weeks apart
- COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen® is a single dose COVID-19 vaccine
- Safety and effectiveness of all COVID-19 vaccines are continuously monitored

- mRNA vaccines are recommended by NIAC for those aged under 50 years of age where possible
- After completing the full course of the vaccine, you get significant protection from severe COVID-19 that requires hospitalisation or can lead to death
- Both mRNA and viral vector vaccines provide good protection from severe COVID-19 disease. Based on current evidence protection from COVID disease is somewhat higher than the protection from viral vector vaccines
- mRNA vaccines are the recommended option during pregnancy in Ireland
- Safety and effectiveness of all COVID-19 vaccines are continuously monitored

What are the negatives of this option?

- There is a very rare risk of unusual blood clots including in the brain with low platelets also called Thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) associated with viral vector vaccines. Although the risk is higher in younger people – it is still extremely rare
 - It is important for people to be aware of the symptoms of TTS so they can seek early medical attention. From international reports, 1 in 5 people who develop TTS after Vaxzevria® and 1 in 10 who develop TTS after Janssen® may die. Of the seven reported cases of suspected TTS cases in Ireland they are all discharged or are recovering in hospital
 - The estimated risk of TTS after the Vaxzevria® vaccine (COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca) is 2 in 100,000 for those under 50 years of age. The risk after the second dose is significantly lower than after the first dose

- You will need to wait until these vaccines become available for your age group - this may leave you unprotected for longer against COVID-19 including the Delta variant
- While you are waiting for an mRNA vaccine you may contract COVID-19. This is usually a mild illness in young people but this is not always the case. The following are some of the serious effects of COVID-19
 - Unusual blood clots including similar to those seen after viral vector vaccines are seen after COVID-19 itself. In the US, the incidence of unusual blood clots in the venous sinus of the brain in those admitted to hospital two weeks after COVID-19 is about 4 in 100,000 for all age groups.
 - Furthermore 1 in 5 patients admitted to ICU because of COVID-19 have blood clots

COVID-19 Vaccines for people aged 18 to 34 years

Version 2.0



**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Public Health
Advice

Get a Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccine now

Wait for a mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine

What are the negatives of this option?

- The estimated risk of TTS after the COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen® is 1 in 300,000
- Vaxzevria® and Janssen® vaccine cannot be given to those with a history of capillary leak syndrome
- Younger people are much less likely to need hospitalisation but they can develop a condition sometimes called long COVID that can continue for weeks or months after getting COVID-19 disease

For every 100,000 AstraZeneca vaccinations Potential Benefits Vs Potential Harm

Data from February 2020 - April 2021



**COVID-19
VACCINE**
Public Health
Advice

Age Group	Potential harm from clotting events**	Potential Benefit Deaths prevented*	Potential Benefit ICU admissions prevented*
0-19	2 ●●	0.53 ●	1.43 ●●
20-34	2 ●●	1.3 ●●	5.96 ●●●●●
35-44	2 ●●	3.97 ●●●●	13.2 ●●●●●●●●●●
45-49	2 ●●	7.81 ●●●●●●●●	32.36 ●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●●

Source: * HPSC CIDR extract 25.03.2021 Cases notified to midnight 24.02.2021

** Age-specific data from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee (NIAC)

Produced by: HSE National Immunisation Office June 2021

www.immunisation.ie

#HoldFirm #CovidVaccine

You might consider this option if you:

- Are worried about catching COVID-19
- Are at higher risk of COVID-19 as you have multiple contacts at work or home
- Live with someone who is at higher risk of COVID-19
- Are not at high risk of getting COVID-19 and willing to wait for a COVID-19 vaccine while you maintain strict compliance with other measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19
- Can't have a viral vector vaccine (e.g. if you have a severe allergic reaction to a previous dose or to any ingredients, previously had TTS after a dose of Vaxzevria or previously had capillary leak syndrome)
- Are worried about getting a viral vector vaccine

If you choose this option:

- You can get the vaccine at a local pharmacy
- Continue to follow current public health advice that's relevant to you. See up to date advice for vaccinated people on hse.ie
- The HSE will let you know where and when you can get your COVID-19 vaccine
- Continue to follow current public health advice that's relevant to you. See up to date advice for vaccinated people on hse.ie

More Information

For more information, read the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet. This will be printed for you on the day you get your vaccine, or you can find it on www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinePIL

You can also talk to a health professional, like your GP (Doctor), Pharmacist or healthcare team.

You can also visit the HSE website at www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine or call HSELive on 1800 700 700.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, including materials in other formats and translation support visit www.hse.ie/covid19vaccinematerials