After your Comirnaty (Pfizer/ BioNTech) COVID-19 vaccine

Thank you for protecting yourself and others by getting the vaccine. Now that you have had your vaccine, we ask you to read this document carefully, so you know how you can expect to feel in the next few days and where to get more information. Do read the COVID-19 vaccine information leaflet we gave you about the vaccine too.

We are also giving you a record of your vaccination today. **Please keep the record card safe.**

What might happen in the next few days?
Some people who got the vaccine that you got today will:

- have tenderness and swelling in the arm where they had the vaccine injection
- feel tired
- get a headache
- have muscle pain
- have joint pain
- have diarrhoea
- get a fever (temperature of 38 degrees Celsius or above).

A very small number of people who received the vaccine developed myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the heart lining).

The risk of these very rare conditions is higher in younger men. It is more likely to occur after the second dose and mostly happens within 14 days of getting the vaccine.

You should seek prompt medical assistance and mention your recent vaccination if you:

- are breathless
- have palpitations (a forceful heartbeat that may be irregular)
- have chest pain

As with all vaccines, you can report suspected side effects to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA). To report side effects to a COVID-19 vaccine, please visit **www.hpra.ie/report**

What if I have a fever or have aches and pains?

If you have a fever or you have aches and pains, you can take paracetamol or ibuprofen to help. However, if your fever lasts more than 48 hours or if you are still concerned, please seek medical advice. Do not take ibuprofen if you are pregnant.

What do I need to remember if I'm getting another vaccine dose?

Please tell the vaccination team if there have been any changes in your medical history.

Remember to bring your vaccination record card with you.

The good news

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine should protect you from the serious complications of COVID-19.

Vaccines teach your immune system to protect you from diseases. It is much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by getting COVID-19.

We are still learning

It takes 7 days after getting your second dose for your vaccine to work. Some people, who have a supressed immune system, won't get the same level of protection from two doses and will be invited for an additional dose.

A booster dose is recommended for people aged 16 and over at least 3 months after finishing a course of COVID-19 vaccine.

There is a small chance you might still get COVID-19 even if you have the vaccine.

We do not know yet if having the vaccine stops you spreading the virus to others, so you must continue to follow public health advice:

- follow social distancing guidelines
  (keep two metres apart from others where possible)
- wear a face covering
- wash your hands regularly.

Have a question?

If you are unsure about anything, or have any questions about the COVID-19 vaccine please ask your vaccinator today.

Visit **www.hse.ie/covid19vaccine** for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Side effects

Please report any side effects to the HPRA at **www.hpra.ie/report**

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland